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THE TENDERLOIN TIMES

Volume 11, Number 11 — Voice of the Central City since 1977 — December 1987

Community Group Sues To Take Over Four Hotels

by Carol Wong

A 1981 compromise deal organized by the city, Tenderloin community groups and a developer that led to the rehabilitation of four Tenderloin hotels is not working out as hoped. The community group, the North of Market Development Corporation (NOMDC), has filed a foreclosure lawsuit against the private developer who owns the buildings for defaulting on the mortgage and other violations of the deed of trust.

In addition, the Development Corporation is now negotiating to eventually obtain full ownership of the hotels, originally purchased in 1981 with financing from the city, the developer, bank loans and a federal grant.

The four hotels—the Ritz, Dalt, William Penn and Hamlin—are currently owned and operated by private developer Goldrich and Kest (G&K). The non-profit Development Corporation oversees the hotels and holds the deed of trust.

Community organizing efforts in the Tenderloin in 1980 resulted in the city requiring the Ramada Renaissance to compensate for its gentrifying effects by contributing towards the rehabilitation of the hotels for low cost housing. After 15 years, ownership of one of the hotels, or possibly a second, was to go to the Development Corporation. G&K would obtain title to the rest.

But in March 1986, G&K stopped

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Times Looks at 3-Month Period

7 Children, 5 Seniors, Hit by Cars

Photo: Lance Woodruff

The corner of Eddy and Jones, in front of Boeddeker Park, is a risky one for pedestrians. Three people were hit by cars there in the last three months. The neighborhood's only crossing guard is on duty there weekdays from 2:30 to 5:30.

by Sara Colm with Shelley Buck

The streets of the Tenderloin can be extremely dangerous and sometimes fatal corridors, especially for children and seniors, according to a Tenderloin Times investigation of police traffic reports. During the last three months, 32 pedestrians were hit by cars in the Tenderloin—seven of whom were children and five were elders. Seven of the accident victims had been drinking, although in most cases their impairment from alcohol was not known.

"That's a huge amount (of accidents)," said Chuck De Leuw, the traffic engineer for the city of Berkeley across the bay. The Tenderloin, with an average of nine pedestrians hit by cars each month, has almost as many pedestrian accidents each month as Berkeley, which has a population four times as large as the Tenderloin.

An analysis of 29 traffic reports obtained by the Times for the period between August 1 and November 6 showed that six of the accidents were classified by police as hit-and-run. None of the drivers were caught.

Eddy Street, with nine pedestrian accidents, had the highest number of incidents, followed by Leavenworth with five and Geary with four. The intersection with the highest number of pedestrian accidents was the corner of Eddy and Jones, in front of Boeddeker Park, which had three accidents. A Times analysis of accident reports for 1986 (Times, March 1986) showed the same intersection had the highest number of pedestrians hit by cars.

Five out of seven child accident victims were hit on the two blocks from the corner of Leavenworth and Turk to the corner of Leavenworth and Eddy and then to Boeddeker Park at Eddy and Jones. That stretch claimed seven injuries total, with one fatality.

A Three-Year Old Dies

One Sunday in early November, Nguyen Thi Cham was loading clothes into the washer in the laundromat across from her house with her three-year-old daughter Sa Linh, when the child suddenly ran out into the street and was hit and killed by a car.

A week later, her grief-stricken parents spoke to the Times. "We are very sad after her death," said Sa Linh's father Nguyen Quoc Doanh. "She was so big and she talked already." Sa Linh's mother added, "She used to hold a book very often, and when asked what she wanted to be in the future, she said she wanted to be a doctor."

Nguyen Quoc Doanh implored drivers to be more responsible and watch carefully when driving through the Tenderloin.

"Children Crossing" Signs?

In most of the six incidents in which children were hit by cars in the past three months, the children suddenly darted into the street without looking. Quoted in "Child in the City" by C. Ward, Dr. Stina Sandels, an international authority on how children behave in traffic, said many parents and drivers overestimate children's ability to understand and deal with cars and traffic.

In addition, Tenderloin residents have long complained that cars from

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TV War Drama Disappoints Vets, Vietnamese

Two G.I.s scout out unfamiliar territory in the Vietnam War drama "Tour of Duty."

by Karen Koenig
with Quyen Quoc Tiet

Starting in September of 1987, 20 years after some of the major battles of the Vietnam War, CBS-TV began airing a new fictional entertainment show called "Tour of Duty," which follows a platoon of American soldiers around Vietnam in 1967.

A whole generation of Americans have grown up since that year. Should they watch this show in the belief that it is an accurate portrayal of what happened in Vietnam?

In Times interviews with Vietnamese refugees and American combat veterans about their opinions of "Tour of Duty," varying perspectives on the Vietnam War emerged.

While the American veterans all condemned the U.S. role in Vietnam and expressed guilt, horror and regret about their own personal roles in that conflict, the Vietnamese refugees—most of whom were civilians during the war—voiced anti-communist sentiments and worried the series showed the U.S. role in their native country in a negative light.

Despite their differing perceptions of the war itself, American vets and Vietnamese refugees mostly agreed about specific inaccuracies in the series, namely, the ways the show depicts Vietnamese culture and politics, the interaction of American soldiers and Vietnamese women, and the nature of the combat itself.

Veterans generally found the combat scenes to be a cleaned-up, cosmeticized version of what they experienced there. They were also concerned that the show minimizes the controversial nature of that war and, in some instances, glorifies warfare.

"I was dreading the day there was going to be a Vietnam series on TV," said veteran Steve Hassna, who was in Vietnam in the 101st Airborne in 1969.

Both Hassna and Marine veteran Melvyn Escueta, who did a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967, found the series insulting. "All the answers are right there in one hour," said Escueta. "It's obvious we vets are idiots because it took us 20 years to come up with the answers or to start understanding."

Marine Vet Paul Cox, who served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, described "Tour of Duty" as a "cartoon." "In it, the Vietnam War is just a backdrop for a series of situation dramas and morality plays," he said.

Nguyen, who was a student in Da Nang during the war, said the show focuses almost entirely on the American experience of the war. "Vietnamese politics and culture are only in the background," he said.

Realizing that American-born Viet-

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Times Takes January Break

After this issue, the Tenderloin Times will be taking a short break from publishing. Best wishes for happy holidays to all our readers. Our next issue will appear in February.

ask the people

by Josh Brandon

What was the most embarrassing moment in your life?

Susan Slovik, 30
"While I was walking with my boyfriend, he saw a man who owed him money. He started after him and when he caught him, he used Kung Fu on him, right there in the street. I told him not to take care of his business while walking with me."

Douglas Brown, 25
"I have never had an embarrassing moment. My most embarrassing time now is being approached by you."

Jeanne Lannin, over 21
"When I was on my honeymoon in Selma, Alabama. My husband had hidden a dozen white mice in my overnight case, and when I opened it in our room, they jumped out and ran all over the place. He and the manager had to catch them because I told him I wouldn't do anything until they were caught."

Ernest Lapher, 79
"When I was a young farmboy during the Depression, I left home to look for work but couldn't find any. I found a woodpile to sleep in during some subzero weather and nearly froze to death."

Stanley Waggoner, 31
"It was the day I vomited in church. All the way from the first pew to the backdoor, nonstop. I was only thirteen and didn't go back again for six weeks."

Ken Butler, 38
"The time I saw an attractive woman in a restaurant looking for a cigarette. I hurried over to her to offer her one of mine, and when I extended my open pack to her, they all hit her in the face."

Eddie Tan, 20
"It happens every time I walk. It's so different that people always ask me why I walk the way I do."

Peter Gamino, 51
"It was when I was working with the Airport Police. This car was stopped in the middle of the road and I told the driver, who had this nice brown hair, 'C'mon, sweetheart, let's get moving.' Then when he turned around, I saw his beard and moustache. I then told him, 'Yeah, I mean you.'"

house log

by Robert Tobin
Hospitality House Director

There should be a new character added to the Charles Dickens classic: the visit by the Ghost of Christmas-Yet-To-Go-Away.

For several brief weeks each year during the holiday season, the mainstream news media brings the general public on an annual tour of the battlefields of human misery on the streets of America. Once again, the homeless are discovered. During much of the rest of the year, we seem to be able to handle news only about the problems of people of other continents. It takes a strong dose of holiday cheer to be able to handle the problems of those just outside our door.

Whether covering the winners or losers in the battle against homelessness, the mainstream media commonly depicts poverty as a personal problem which can be overcome simply through individual effort. This viewpoint allows us to forget about those who are out there in the trenches year-round fighting to help those who have no one to help them.

Three community workers whose efforts have touched the lives of many in the neighborhood are now leaving the Tenderloin to move on to different things. Barbara Trimble, manager of Hospitality Houses's program for homeless youth, was active in the effort to build an interagency consortium that addresses the needs of homeless youth throughout the city. She was a very vocal advocate in the struggle to get the Department of Social Services to finally agree to serve youth on San Francisco's streets who come from troubled families in other cities.

Dick Park's tenure at Traveler's Aid Society and the activities of Heidi Swarts at the North of Market Planning Coalition are other testimonials to the positive change that can be accomplished through hard work. A member of several coalitions that advocated for the homeless, Dick brought a commanding voice, sound advice, and his agency's credibility to efforts to push the city to create more humane programs for the homeless.

In the Tenderloin's transition from doghouse to powerhouse among San Francisco neighborhoods, Heidi Swarts kept track of the big issues and little details that kept NOMPC members at the forefront of the fight for housing, recreation and employment opportunities.

We regret the departures of all three and the fact that there rarely seemed to be a chance for many of us to express our appreciation adequately. It would be a real shame if the best gift our city got this year—the hard work of people like these—goes virtually unnoticed this holiday season.

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Voice of the Central City since 1977

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letters

Kudos from a Sister Paper

Editors,

I'm envious of you for your recognition, proud of you for the product of your effort, and I empathize with you in your struggle to keep a small paper going. It's usually a struggle for us too, but we've got a bit extra this month and I know you'll put this donation to good use. Don't give up!

Jack Tipple
Co-Publisher
Noe Valley Voice

History Repeats Itself

Editors,

If you want to know what a candidate will do after being elected to office, look at what the candidate does beforehand.

Monday, October 26, Jack Molinari and five of his colleagues voted against the 70 percent of San Franciscans who are renters who wanted and needed more protection against unjust evictions and unfair rent increases disguised under other names. Not a very radical bill—just common sense to people who still see rents doubling and more.

Supervisors Molinari, Gonzales, Silver, Hsieh, Kennedy, and Maher voted to send back to committee a bill that had been before them for nine months.

Did they need more facts and figures? No way. Hearings, letters, and meetings had been full of facts and figures on the need for this legislation.

What five of these Supervisors (all but Maher) seemed to think they need to do was to respond to Jack Molinari's campaign contributors. To make sure they did, Molinari's campaign aides were in Supervisors' offices right up to the time of the vote to remind them of that (and who knows what else).

A recent issue of the *Realtor Report* said it best: *Jack has been a friend of the Board of Realtors for many years. He has voted with us on many real estate-related issues. Foremost in our mind is his "no" vote on vacancy control. If that "no" vote was not made and confirmed, we would today have those controls.*

I'm voting for Art Agnos because we need those controls. Whether you agree with Art or not about vacancy control, you know we need straightforward public officials who say the same things in public as they do behind closed doors (and open checkbooks), who will tell people the same things on the east and west sides of town.

Please join me on December 8 in voting for Art Agnos.

Richard Allman

Deadbolts, Peepholes Required by Law

Editors,

Readers who are concerned about crime and violence in residential hotels should know about a city law that requires all hotel and apartment house doors to have deadbolt locks and viewers.

The Hotel Security Act (Municipal Housing Code File No. 377-81-3, 6-82) was passed five years ago by the mayor and Board of Supervisors. But little has been done by the Apartment and Hotel Inspectors since the law passed to have hundreds of these hotels comply with the law!

The law requires all hotel, motel and apartment house doors to be of solid wood core, 1 ⅜ inches thick, and have a deadbolt lock and viewer (peephole). The peepholes deter many would-be criminals from committing crimes in these buildings because they can be seen and identified by the tenants and reported to the police as they are prowling, wheeling and dealing, attempting rapes, burglaries, murder and other violent crimes.

In the hotel where I live, crime decreased by 90 percent when the new doors, with deadbolt locks and peepholes, were installed. All the violent crimes stopped. We have no more burglaries, drug dealers and tenants being mugged in the elevators. The criminals, who used to come and go and prowl in the hotel disappeared and left, searching for greener pastures in other buildings.

Every resident or transient tenant living in hotels and apartment houses whose doors are not in compliance with the Hotel Security Act should call the building inspectors at 558-6220 or write to the Housing Inspection Division, Dept. of Apartment and Hotel Inspection, 450 McAllister St., S.F., CA. 94102.

You do not have to identify yourself and can remain anonymous, but you have to give the name of the hotel and the address. Insist that peepholes be put in now or when the new doors are installed. This effectively cuts down on crime where you live!

The building inspectors are obligated to have these violations corrected. Keep calling and writing until some action has been taken to get the hotel owners to comply with the law.

John LeFranc

Thanks from the Rug Rat

Editors,

Just a quick note to tell you how much I appreciate all the work you and your people did for your tenth anniversary party. I think you did yourselves proud.

My fiancee and I had a real good time and it was an honor for me to be invited and honored as a Tender Champ. Your presentation to me was also extraordinary and I shall always display with pride the Tender Champs award you gave me!

You have all obviously worked extremely hard on the Tenderloin Times and it shows in the way you have brought the diverse people of the Tenderloin together. I think you have proven now that the Tenderloin is *not* a boil on the rump of San Francisco, but a lively community which many decent people call home.

Thanks again for the honor you paid me. I'm happy that Senator Marks honored you as well . . . richly deserved! Best regards always and God Bless you all.

Officer Bill Langlois, S.F.P.D.
The "Rug Rat"

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November Election Analysis

Tenderloin Goes for Agnos, Parts With City Over Props

by Josh Brandon

If it were up to the voters of the 19 voting precincts in the Tenderloin, Assemblyman Art Agnos would have been elected mayor on November 3, and no runoff election would have been necessary this month.

In November, Agnos captured every precinct in the Tenderloin, receiving 55.2 percent of the Tenderloin ballots cast in the ten-candidate race to catch the political reins of the city from outgoing mayor Dianne Feinstein. John Molinari, the early heir-apparent, gained the final confidence of 22.5 percent of the Tenderloin electorate, while Roger Boas salvaged only 11.8 percent of the vote. The other seven candidates, led by Warren Hinckle, split the remaining 10.5 percent.

This year's election, reflecting the increasing complexity of local politics, required a 125-page handbook filled with political arguments and endorsements regarding the record 20 propositions on the ballot.

The proposition that drew the most voter interest citywide and in the Tenderloin was Prop W, which called for a new stadium at Seventh and Townsend Streets. It garnered 51.2 percent approval in the Tenderloin but was defeated citywide.

The move for district elections of supervisors in Prop P also attracted significant voter interest in the Tenderloin, possibly because of the neighborhood's relative lack of clout at City Hall. It was endorsed by 52.5 percent of those voting, but the rest of the city clearly decided against the political change.

Prop G, which removes the cap on the city's budget for the Office of Citizen Complaints, fared much better. Perhaps seen as an indication of whether the people view themselves as vulnerable to or protected by the police, Tenderloin voters strongly approved the measure by a 57.4 percent margin, while it passed citywide by fewer than 4,000 votes.

The most strongly supported proposition was Prop C, particularly in the Tenderloin and generally in the city. The $26 million in bonds for a new 185-bed mental health facility won easy passage with 85 percent of those voting; the rest of San Francisco saw the same need in its nearly 80 percent approval.

Prop T, requiring voter approval before any transfer or sale of city property, passed by nearly two-to-one through the city, suggesting that voters would rather decide for themselves on sales of city property than leave those decisions to the Board of Supervisors. Tenderloin voters narrowly approved it by 53.7 percent.

City voters, including those in the Tenderloin, protected their pocketbooks by heartily supporting Prop R, which prohibits the city from taxing residential utility bills. The lost revenue will take about $10 million away from the deficit-plagued budget for 1988.

The most disappointing statistic of the November 3 election is the voter turnout rate in non-presidential elections, which has steadily declined statewide in the past 20 years from 67 percent of registered voters to only 43 percent.

This lack of voter interest is also seen in the Tenderloin. The Downtown district (which includes the Tenderloin, Civic Center, and the financial district) is heavily weighted in favor of the Tenderloin, where two-thirds of Downtown voters live. But in the last two mayoral elections, only 30 percent of those registered in the Tenderloin exercised their right to vote.

As significant segments of the Tenderloin decide not to vote, its influence in city politics and decisions lessens. Until more people show their interest and concern by voting, there is a danger that the Tenderloin's political voice, measured in the number of active voters, will speak in mere whispers and not be heard.

Photo: Lance Woodruff

Cambodian dancers Theap Kong and Lakana Muth helped the Tenderloin Times celebrate its 10th anniversary last month at the Lurie Building and more than 200 supporters joined in the fun. With Master of Ceremonies Leroy Looper presiding, Times editors Sara Colm and Rob Waters gave out awards to the Tender Champs: Chris Adams, manager of the Heart of the City Farmers' Market, Officer Bill Langlois of the San Francisco Police Department, Frank McCulloch, managing editor of the San Francisco Examiner and Christina Cuevas and Henry Izumazaki of the San Francisco Foundation. Special thanks to Chevron, KPIX, the Lurie Company, the McKesson Corporation, the San Francisco Examiner, the John Stewart Company and Wells Fargo, who sponsored the event.

City May Allow More Shading of Parks

by Edward Robinson

The amount of sunshine at Boeddeker Park, Civic Center, the proposed new playground on Ellis Street, and other downtown parks could be at risk under the city's new interpretation of the "Sunlight Ordinance," or Prop K, said Supervisor Bill Maher at a press conference with the Sierra Club and Tenderloin activists last month.

Originally intended to prevent construction of new buildings that would cast shadows on city parks, Prop K, passed in 1984, exempts buildings which do not cast a "significant" shadow on parks.

It took until November of this year for the City Planning and Recreation and Park commissions to jointly come up with a complex mathematical formula for permissible shading of parks, which defines "significant" shadowing.

The tentative proposal by the joint commissions might allow further shading by newly constructed buildings of some parks that are already more than 30 percent shaded.

But Supervisor Bill Maher, who authored the proposition back in 1984, said the joint commission's definition of allowable shadowing will weaken the ordinance.

"The message of Prop K could not have been more clear—no additional shading of our parks will be tolerated," he wrote in a letter to community organizations in November.

Tenderloin open-space advocate Richard Livingston said he favored the strictest interpretation of the ordinance and expressed concern that people may not realize the importance of prohibiting buildings that further block the sun. "Once you shade it," he said, "it's going to be shaded for one hundred years."

In addition, said Joe Kaufman of the North of Market Planning Coalition, "It's a tool to start new developments."

Another loophole possibly being widened in Prop K is a provision stating that a building that would shade a park can be erected if the building serves "the public good."

A new wing to be added to the Civic Center Library—which would shade Civic Center Plaza in the morning hours—was cited in the joint commission's proposal as a good example of a new structure that could fit through this loophole.

The two commissions have set a final hearing to decide limits on shading of parks for December 15 at 1:30 at City Hall. For more information call the Planning Commission at 558-6407 or the Rec and Parks Commission at 558-4773.

U.S.-Vietnam Accord May Allow More Refugees Out

by Sara Colm

After almost two years, a legal departure program for refugees seeking to leave Vietnam has resumed processing applicants for resettlement, reported Bruce Beardsley, refugee coordinator for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, at a community meeting at the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement last month.

With record numbers of people fleeing Vietnam by boat this year—the highest since 1982—it's hoped that the resumption of the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) will stem the flow of risky boat escapes. Beardsley reported that recent talks with the Vietnamese government have resulted in a more "streamlined" departure system.

"The program is resuming on relatively good footing," said Beardsley. "We now have the potential to be able to resettle a significant number of people in the coming year."

The Orderly Departure Program was set up through an agreement between the United States and Vietnam in 1979 as an alternative to risky boat escapes. To date, 133,000 people have left Vietnam through the program—half of them to the United States. But in January 1986, the program was suspended because of a huge backlog of applications and disagreements between Vietnam and the U.S. over processing procedures. Beardsley said he hoped more people would be able to leave under the newly revamped system.

In a first round of interviews in Vietnam in September, 1,068 people were interviewed, with all but 109 approved for resettlement to the United States. In a second round of interviews just completed last month, another 1,346 people were interviewed.

Despite the resumption of the program, there remain over half a million applicants on waiting lists for departure. Beardsley said that at the current rate it would take more than 40 years for all those on waiting lists to obtain permission to leave. He hopes to convince the Vietnamese to allow at least 30,000 people a year to leave—almost twice as many as the highest annual departures in the past.

Questions still remain about who is to be allowed to leave under the program because the U.S. and Vietnam have different priorities. To date, statistics show that the Vietnamese government has mainly allowed ethnic Chinese, an unwanted group in Vietnam, to depart through ODP. The U.S., on the other hand, is more interested in resettling re-education camp prisoners and people formerly associated with the United States, including Amerasian children and their immediate families.

Although people emigrating to be with their families in the United States have been resettled through ODP, Beardsley said that in the future those cases would be encouraged to apply through regular immigration channels.

"I'm optimistic that we shall be getting an increased response from the Vietnamese," said Beardsley. "But we also have to be aware that the priorities of the Vietnamese government may not coincide with our own."

Homeless Union Ready for '88

Photo: Lance Woodruff

Chris Sprowal, national president of the Homeless Union, conferred with delegates at their national board meeting in San Francisco last month.

by Laurence Uebersfeld

The National Union of the Homeless set ambitious winter objectives last month during its board of directors meeting in San Francisco. It plans to send homeless delegates to the Democratic Convention, establish statewide tribunals to examine homelessness, train the homeless to help themselves, and raise public awareness of the issue through the media.

The Union is planning a national day of action on December 21, the first day of winter and a symbol of extra sorrow for those who must live outside.

Union represantives from Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco, which established a local chapter in April, attended the two day meeting at Old St. Mary's Church. National President Chris Sprowal urged board members to push for representation at the Democratic Convention. "We are the issue," he said. "We are the ones who should be there."

Barbara Range, president of the Oakland Union, was optimistic that California, with its three unions, San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles—can have real political impact. According to Randy Swiercinsky, the San Francisco Union has signed up 1,500 members and has an active core of 15 members. Membership is $1 a month for unemployed people and $5 for those with jobs.

Sprowal feels the public does not know who the homeless are, and he blames this partly on the media, "who always picture the wino, drunk in the street," rather than the average person who may have lost his or her job. A growing number of the homeless, said Sprowal, are working people who were squeezed out of the housing market because of soaring prices.

Members of the union wear a button that reads "Homeless, Not Helpless." In keeping with this can-do philosophy, Sprowal's organization recently obtained $500,000 from Temple University to organize a life skills training program for homeless people, so that they can move off the street. Three members of the San Francisco Union will go to Philadelphia to participate in the training program in order to return and counsel others.

The main issue for the San Francisco Union, says Swiercinsky, is the condition of the homeless shelters, which are often so poor that many homeless would rather sleep in the street. Few supportive services are available to help the homeless get out of their situation, such as counseling or assistance in writing resumes.

Swiercinsky says the "hotline" hotels, where the homeless can stay three to five nights, are better than the shelters.

Randy Swiercinsky can be contacted at the San Francisco offices of the Union of the Homeless at 864-0513.

in short

Vigil in Memory of Those Who Died on the Streets

Tenderloin Times investigations showed that in 1985 at least 16 homeless people died on San Francisco's streets; in 1986 the number jumped to 54. How many more died this year? On Monday, December 14 the North of Market Planning Coalition and San Francisco Network Ministries will be holding an inter-faith vigil in memory of those who died. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Boeddeker Park at Jones and Eddy with an ecumenical service, followed by a march to Civic Center. "We want to draw attention to the fact that people are dying on the streets and we have to do something about it—not just homes, but social services as well," said Kelly Cullen of NOMPC. For more information, call 474-2164.

Catholic Charities Celebrates

Catholic Charities held two celebrations last month—one to mark the opening of its new Central City office at 1049 Market Street and the other to honor providers of home care services to the elderly.

Having outgrown its former offices at 50 Oak Street, Catholic Charities decided to move to the Tenderloin to be near the low-income elderly, homeless, immigrant and refugee populations it serves, according to Executive Director Mary Lou Goeke.

Holiday Cards, Pottery and Artwork for Sale

Hospitality House, San Francisco's only fine arts program for homeless and low-income residents, will be having a sale of handmade cards and pottery during December from 12-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays. In addition, the House, located at 146 Leavenworth Street, will have four concurrent exhibitions of paintings, drawings, sculpture and printmaking during the holiday season. Starting December 9, shows will go up at Hospitality House, Hatley Martin Gallery at 41 Powell Street, and the Washington Square Bar and Grill at 1707 Powell Street. On December 15, another exhibition will open at the American Zephyr Gallery at 25 Van Ness Avenue. A reception for the House's holiday arts celebration will be held at Hatley Martin on Thursday, December 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Protestors Urge Funding of Youth Jobs Program

Teenagers, parents and agencies' representatives protested the defunding of a city jobs program for youths that recently fell under Mayor Feinstein's budget ax on November 23.

Each year since 1983, some 500 low-income teens at risk of dropping out of high school have been placed in part-time, after-school jobs at city libraries, recreation centers, community groups, city offices and private businesses by the Mayor's In-School Youth Program.

But in September the mayor completely axed the program, she said, because of the city's pending budget deficit.

"The biggest problem in our nation is unemployed youth, and what does our mayor do?" asked Keith Grier, recreation director at Boeddeker Park. "It's the only way a low-income youth can go to work, stay in school, get some on-the-job training and some money as well. Otherwise, many would be selling drugs on the street."

Senate Passes Refugee Bill

On October 7, the Senate passed an amended version of the Indochinese Refugee Resettlement and Protection Act of 1987 introduced by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.). The bill expresses a "sense of Congress" that U.S. refugee admissions from Southeast Asia should remain at current levels for the next three fiscal years, and authorizes funds for refugee protection and education in Thailand.

In addition, the Hatfield bill expresses a "sense of the Congress" that refugees who have lived in camps for three years or longer are of special humanitarian concern to the US, which should take the lead in renewing international efforts to resettle these long-stayers. The bill allocates $5 million for 1988 and 1989 for education programs in camps along the Lao and Cambodian border in Thailand.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 63 to 33, now goes to a House-Senate conference committee for further consideration.

—from Refugee Reports
October 16, 1987

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Hotel Foreclosure Lawsuit

continued from page 1

making payments on its bank loan, said John Elberling, president of the Development Corporation, which responded by filing a foreclosure lawsuit, charging that G&K had overcharged rents, failed to open the Hamlin Hotel, and defaulted on its loan payments.

In a tentative settlement of the lawsuit in September 1987, G&K agreed to sell all four hotels to the Development Corporation for $2 million.

Enter the consortium of banks that had lent $6.5 million to the hotel project. They rejected G&K's proposed sale of the hotels. The banks said *they* should get the $2 million as partial payment of the loans made in '81, and not G&K.

As an alternative, the banks suggested that the Development Corporation and G&K become partners in the hotel project for ten years, with NOMDC the controlling partner responsible for management of the properties and G&K a limited partner, thus lessening G&K's tax burden.

Both NOMDC and G&K have said in the past they like the idea of such a partnership; however, negotiations are currently at an impasse over how much of the $2 million should go to the banks to pay off the debt and how much to G&K. Also still at issue is who is to obtain ownership of the hotels in 1996; G&K or the Development Corporation.

Elberling conceded that some money should be paid to G&K to ease its financial burden. However, he is adamant that the Development Corporation should get title to all four hotels in 1996 because it could be taking on tremendous financial responsibility.

"We'll have to raise several million to complete the rehab and earthquake-proof the buildings," said Elberling. "And as general partners, we'll have to pay the mortgage in the end. In exchange, it seems reasonable for the community to wind up with the hotels."

Ed Matthews, a partner in G&K, argued that since its original $850,000 investment in the project in 1981, it has had to contribute approximately $4 million in additional funds into the project over the years.

"We need to be able to recover our investment," Matthews said. "We have to work out an arrangement."

While negotiations about the proposed partnership are stalemated, NOMDC is proceeding with its foreclosure action, which G&K is fighting.

"We don't believe there is a basis for foreclosure," said Matthews. He said the project has had "substantial cash losses every year" and that his firm has tried to renegotiate its nine percent interest agreement with the banks.

Funding for the project was obtained through a $4 million federal Urban Development Action Grant, $1 million from the city and a $6.5 million loan from the bank consortium. The Ramada Hotel contributes $153,000 in rent subsidies each year, a city requirement for issuance of its building permit.

The long-vacant Hamlin Hotel on Eddy Street is expected to open in the summer as a subsidized Section 8 hotel. The current negotiations are not expected to affect the Hamlin's opening. "We hope it goes ahead without delay," said Elberling.

Local Filmmaker Gets Picture of Today's Cambodia Rebuilding

by Sara Colm

A desperately impoverished country that is struggling to make ends meet and rebuild after years of war, with virtually no help from Western countries—this is the image of Cambodia that emerges from a Times interview with filmmaker Ellen Bruno after her recent three-week trip there this fall.

Bruno, 30, who formerly worked with Cambodian refugees in Thailand and in New York City, is one of the few Westerners to visit Cambodia in recent years. The country has remained relatively isolated since the Vietnamese invaded in 1979, ousting the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime and installing the current Cambodian government under the leadership of Heng Samrin.

"Everyone is struggling to make ends meet—from the old widow selling cucumbers in the market, to the guys plowing rice in the fields, to the people in Phnom Penh trying to make it as civil servants," said Bruno.

Many of Cambodia's scant resources go towards national security because it is fighting a war with Cambodian resistance factions, including the Khmer Rouge, based at the Thai border.

"The security problems are huge," said Bruno. "There are trains getting blown up left and right and mines being set all over the place. Everywhere you go you see amputees (from the mines)."

Decades of turmoil and war—first the Indochinese War, then the Khmer Rouge regime in the late 70s, and now the war on the border—have taken a heavy toll on the morale of the Cambodian people.

"They do not have an ounce of resistance in their body (to the current government)," said Bruno. "They are so fed up with the war and they're completely depressed about how isolated that country is. There's a sense of futurelessness, and an inability to plan for anything but a week or two in advance."

Bruno described Phnom Penh, the capital, as a thriving city with coffee shops, people playing music and the markets "packed with stuff." On the other hand, she said it was full of refugees from the countryside—now essentially squatting in its scores of abandoned buildings—who had come to the city after the war, searching for relatives.

Ellen Bruno and her film crew on location in Cambodia, interviewing rice farmers.

"Phnom Penh is full of rural people who don't know how to live in the city," said Bruno. "It looks like a village—there are pigs tied to every tree, chickens running around."

Not having visited Cambodia before, Bruno said that it was difficult for her to judge whether the things she was seeing were as they had always been, or if these were new conditions. "I'd see a slum and ask myself, was it always this bad or is this new? I had no perspective."

Another Famine?

Cambodia's economic problems have been exacerbated by a drought and failed harvest this year. "Everyone was very nervous," reported Bruno. "They all knew it was going to be a bad year, so everyone was trying to prepare for it."

Bruno said the term "Year Zero," used to describe the destruction and aftermath of the Khmer Rouge regime, is an apt description of the conditions in Cambodia. "The country was completely destroyed and had to start at the beginning in every sense—economics, education, health care, etc. A poor harvest like this year's really sets a farmer back. He's taken years to build up any sort of surplus to buy one pig or chicken, which he saves as security—to sell for medicine in case his kid gets sick.

"What happens in a year like this when they lose their first crop is then they have to sell their pig or their chicken in order to just buy rice. That puts them back four or five years."

Bruno, who visited several cities and the countryside in the central part of Cambodia, described the presence of Vietnamese advisers and troops as "very low profile." She said that she saw a lot of ambivalence among ministers and civil servants in the government. While not wildly enthusiastic about the current regime, many of the civil servants she met seemed to be very committed to staying and rebuilding the country.

They had remained, "not out of any political commitment, but out of a pure desire not to see the country go down the tubes," she said. "There's this very conscious and almost frantic commitment to the survival of the Cambodian culture and the Cambodian people. They have put their politics aside and decided not to leave."

Bruno, who worked in Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand on the Cambodian border in 1980, was critical of the amount of Western aid being focused there, when people inside Cambodia were in such need. Little aid goes to Cambodia from Western countries because it is allied with Vietnam and the Soviet Union, she said.

"I kept thinking, all of the resources and energy and good intention are getting absorbed by the border situation," she commented. "I'm not saying that people don't need it there, I'm just saying there's got to be some kind of balance. With the kind of restrictions the U.S. puts onto any kind of aid to that country, we're just insuring that they continue to suffer. Their needs are so simple and they could be so easily met.

"People don't have enough to eat, the hospitals are full of people who probably are going to die because they don't have simple antibiotics. Do these people need to continue to suffer? That is the question that kept coming back to me. Why torture the Cambodian people because of the fact that the Vietnamese are in the country?

"Those people have got to be remembered and their needs met despite what side of the political spectrum we have put them on."

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Photo: Lance Woodruff

Everyone, including the monks, was all smiles during the Cambodian community's celebration of the opening of a temple in San Francisco. During a break from the official proceedings, one monk took a peek at National Geographic magazine.

Pelosi Addresses Tenderloin Issues at Neighborhood Meeting

by Dave Knepler

Seeking local input, first-term Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi met with 25 Tenderloin residents recently in an open neighborhood meeting at the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement. As she fielded questions and received comments regarding refugees, mass transit, economics, the homeless, and AIDS, Pelosi offered criticism of current federal and local policies in these areas.

"Not everyone in government agrees government is there to serve the people," she said. "I think everything we do—every bill we consider—should be to increase the dignity of the individual."

Pelosi attacked Mayor Dianne Feinstein's approach to the plight of the homeless and expressed the hope that San Francisco's next mayor can offer better direction. "The current city program is inadequate and undignified for what people can be asked to endure," said Pelosi.

Pelosi's two-tiered solution involves first supplying an immediate $150 million in federal money to cities for locally directed programs, and second, a Congressional study of "the economic and health reasons that put these people on the street in the first place. People in the Tenderloin have done a wonderful job giving hope and opportunity, but government has to get to the root of the problem."

Responding to a question regarding AIDS education, Pelosi stated that Congress is "hampered by a lack of willingness on the part of the Reagan administration to admit the realities of how AIDS is communicated. Their attitude is 'Just Say No.'"

Pelosi has obtained 21,000 copies of an AIDS educational pamphlet and will mail these out to homes in San Francisco. She had attempted to get several hundred thousand of the many million that had been printed. But, she found, as did C. Everett Koop, the Surgeon General and author of the pamphlet, that President Reagan had blocked distribution.

Crediting this to the right wing's version of morality, Pelosi charged that Reagan "listens more to the Attorney General (Edwin Meese) than to his Surgeon General" on this specific health issue. She warned that this selective deafness will cause many more major problems, since, for example, up to 500,000 of the nation's 1.3 million intravenous drug users have already been exposed to the AIDS virus.

Cambodian Spirit Creates Temple

by Sophath Pak

San Francisco's Cambodian community realized a long sought-after goal last month with the grand opening of a new Buddhist temple, marked by a religious ceremony and fundraising event Nov. 15 at Booker T. Washington community center. Venerable Maha Ghosananda, the leader of Cambodian Buddhists in the United States, arrived from his home in Rhode Island to attend the fundraiser and lend his support to the newly founded temple.

The Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. raised the money to rent a house at 1305 48th Avenue, which is being used for the temple, and to support its resident monk, who moved to San Francisco last month from Modesto. The temple is named "Wat Nokor Tom" (The Big Country).

For Buddhists, a temple is not only important as a place to worship, but a place for the elders to congregate and the children to learn about their culture. "In Cambodia, people use a temple as a learning center," explained Ghosananda. "They can learn everything there, not just religion."

Last September, the newly formed Buddhist Society pledged to organize a temple in San Francisco. "Some people in the community thought that we couldn't make it," said board member Chheng Heang proudly.

A month earlier, in Long Beach, another Cambodian religious association held a fundraising festival for a temple in Southern California. In half a day they raised $120,000. "We are going to buy a piece of land in Long Beach to build a temple for our community's needs," said Saroeum Chhun, one of the organizers of the fundraiser.

Sa Em Oul, vice-chair of the San Francisco's Buddhist Society, said "The Cambodians believe that the Buddhist temple is the only spirit that can make their culture survive."

the tender side

by Keith Grier

I don't know about you, but as for me, a black man and native San Franciscan, it buoys my spirits to walk down the streets and be greeted by many of the beautiful Asian children with smiles and waves. . . when so often I've been scorned by my fellow Americans. Who are the true Americans now?

The death of one diminishes us all, but how much more the death of an innocent 3-year old, needlessly run over by a motorist who had apparently lost her way. We share the grief of Sa Linh Nguyen's family.

Joe **Kaufman** has a new roommate—one of **Kelly Cullen**'s kittens, which was temporarily bunking over at the Bay Area Women's Resource Center. He named it **Jethro**, after Moses' father-in-law and because Jethro goes good with Joe. Sure is nice to have someone to come home to, he adds.

There will be a Christmas party in the new recreation building next to the park—hope it will be open by then. Watch for our poster to tell you date and time.

I once expressed my lack of faith in the political process. . . but it is a tool, and along those lines a few of us from the black and Cambodian communities have been thinking of establishing a chapter of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition right here in the Tenderloin—not necessarily as a power base for Jesse, but for us. Opinions, pro and con, would be welcome. And there's no need to approach any of the local power-brokers for a meeting place: we have the 509 Cultural Center.

There are a million ways to subjugate a people, but by far the easiest is to let them enslave and destroy themselves. I'm speaking of alcohol, specifically cheap wine: the Rose, the Bird, etc.—and drugs. It's the most effective means of chemical warfare: let the people administer the poison themselves, while the oppressor makes a tidy profit on their misery. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Turn around the energy expended in the hustle to get high; and hustle to get smart, get healthy, get free. Then you might have something real. . . instead of pipe dreams and rotting livers.

Photo: George Williams

Richard Daquioag played the part of a condom at an AIDS Awareness Day in Boeddeker Park last month. 1,000 condoms and 600 bottles of bleach were distributed and three trees planted in memory of AIDS victims during the event, which was sponsored by the Tenderloin AIDS Network, Mid-City Consortium to Combat AIDS and Glide Church.

Holidays got you down? There's now a phone at the Living Room, 476 Eddy Street—which is a place for people 55 years and older to drop in for coffee and whatever. Call Jeanne or Penny between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. if you want to talk to someone, especially if you have the holiday blahs or blues. If they aren't there, leave a name (any name) and number or call back again. The number is 441-3082.

The VYDC wanted to know why **Puthara Chuop** has not been to work in two weeks, so I put my spies to work and found there's a new woman in his life. It's all right to have a new lady friend, but you got to keep a job to keep her. (Just kidding!)

There was a good crowd at the Tenderloin Times' tenth anniversary festivities last month at the Lurie Building. **Rob Waters** and **Sara Colm**, who recently were awarded recognition in education and social service by Esquire Magazine and named to their annual honor roll of national achievers, gave out some awards of their own that night. Honored as "Tender Champs" by the Times were Farmers Market manager **Chris Adams**, Examiner Editor **Frank McCulloch**, "Decoy" Cop **William Langlois** and San Francisco Foundation Program Executives **Christina Cuevas** and **Henry Izumazaki**. Rob tells me that **Rawna Romero** and **Janice Bourgeois** deserve extra thanks for making the event a very special evening.

The Income Rights Project had a great bash for their new offices at 355 Golden Gate. Congratulations to co-directors **Sandy Weiner** and **Barbara Nabors-Glass**! IRP provides free counseling, advocacy and representation for AFDC and GAIN (Workfare) recipients and applicants. Drop-in hours are Monday through Thursday, 10-12 and 1-4.

John Hardesty and **Anne Moore**, formerly with the IRP, continue to provide SSI/SSD counseling and representation at 251 Eddy Street. Their drop-in hours are Tuesdays 10-2 and Thursdays 1-4.

Seniors who need help with doctor's appointments, shopping, banking, social services or recreational activities, **Louella Leon** of the Senior Escort Program wants you! Call 673-8600.

The so-called mainstream media has lately been full of the "plight of the homeless." Well, as we know, temporary shelters are not the answer . . . nor is new construction of low-cost housing, because of the lack of federal funds and profit motive for private industry. Homeless people need homes. And the answer is right here in the Tenderloin, as exemplified by the Aarti Co-op. The rehab and conversion of existing hotels into tenant-run cooperatives is the way to go. Self-determination is the answer. Speaking of the Aarti, a new president has been elected: **Ray Davis**.

Congratulations to **Greg Francis**, who was appointed to the Planning Coalition's board last month to fill a vacant seat.

We were all real sorry to hear that **Dick Park** is leaving Travelers' Aid Society. After close to seven years there, Dick says its time for a breather. He's looking forward to having the time to take some long walks on the beach. His work over the years in the Central City—advocating for child-care and mental health services and leading the fight for humane services for the homeless—has been invaluable. We'll miss you, Dick.

Barbara Trimble is another departing neighborhood worker whose caring work for homeless youth will be sorely missed. She's off to Peru for a couple of weeks before returning to S.F. to devote more time to her private practice as a psychologist. **Ann O'Halloran** has taken Barbara's place as the new youth director at Hospitality House. Congratulations, Anne and goodbye, Barbara!

Word's out that **Heidi Swarts** is leaving the Planning Coalition come February. I'll save my words about Heidi for next issue.

Q: What's brown and wrinkled and lives in Paris? A: The lunch bag of Notre Dame. That's **Andy Maxwell**'s favorite joke these days. Feel free to send in your latest joke—the Tenderloin needs more humor.

Winners of the best domino players in the Tenderloin: one **Walter Hampton** and **Curtis Mayfield**—second place winners were **Michael Deshay** and **Shawn Johnson**.

T-CON is here—Tenderloin Community Outreach Network—an organization initiated by Glide and interested community members, reaching out to help in any way they can for a stronger Tenderloin.

You see folks, we are the only ones who can solve our problems—through unity, culturally and politically . . . hence the ongoing black and Asian gatherings at the 509. Everyone is invited to share in a new beginning. The time to organize community power is now, before the real estate developers move in and take over the TL, which is fast becoming the most valuable neighborhood in the city. A lot of people are under the illusion that money is power—and that's their weakness. Real power lies in the people, that's you and me: but only if we bond together for our common good.

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Seniors at Home in 'Living Room'

Photo: Lance Woodruff

The Living Room on Eddy Street provides a homey place for seniors to socialize.

by Mickey Williamson

An unpretentious storefront on Eddy Street tells the story of how a bit of family and home can happen for some who have very little of either. The place is the Living Room, a drop-in center sponsored by the Adult Benevolent Association of the St. Anthony Foundation.

Located at 476 Eddy Street, the room's comfortable couches and chairs, kitchen table, bookshelf and radio provide an atmosphere that accommodates both solitude and participation. Open since April, the Living Room has already attracted a regular crowd who are drawn to its informal and friendly atmosphere. Though small in size, it is more "homey" than many hotel lobbies and less structured than many senior centers.

"It's just what it says—a living room," comments Maria Lawiczka, who regularly volunteers as one of the hostesses there. As she talks, a game of checkers is being played at the sunny table by the window, a couple of people are reading newspapers or novels, someone is snoozing on the couch, and others are gathered around the central table to share coffee, cookies and conversation.

Maria, who uses a walker to get around, says she likes the fact the Living Room is so close to her apartment. She welcomes a place where she is not forced to do anything, yet where she is offered the responsibility of serving as a hostess.

A refrigerator is kept stocked for those who get hungry, but the treats that may appear on the table—a plate of muffins, a homebaked cake, a tin of cookies, or a bag of fruit—just as often come from the seniors themselves. Some of the art that decorates the walls has been created and donated by the seniors as well.

This willingness to share from often limited resources is perhaps the most visible sign of the Living Room's secret of success. The seniors come together at regular monthly meetings to make decisions about equipment, activities and guidelines for participation. They share in the roles of host and hostess, keeping the place clean and welcoming all who enter. And like a family council, they must take responsibility for resolving interpersonal issues that may arise. While staff from the Adult Benevolent Association are often present, they are there in the role of visitors or friends—The ABA's philosophy is to help the seniors meet their own needs.

George Mink, another familiar face around the table, is in and out of the Living Room several times each day. He keeps the coffee pot full and knows where everything is and how it works. Terry Laine is the resident philosopher, always ready to engage in discussions of politics or peace. Terry describes the Living Room as "a relaxing place, most of the time. It's a place to read and study without too many distractions."

While Terry sees the Living Room as filling a need the neighborhood has had for a long time, he is also quick to say that it is not *the* answer. He is concerned about the segregating effects of places that are limited to a certain age group and would like to see a multi-purpose community center sponsored by all the Tenderloin agencies—one that would be open at all hours to all ages and ethnic groups, offering a variety of activities.

While more undoubtedly can be done to create community in the Tenderloin, not only among the seniors but all the residents of the neighborhood, the Living Room is a start—and perhaps even a model for other spaces, other living rooms.

ABA staff members Joanne Kelly and Penny Padden welcome seniors who have not yet visited the Living Room. It is open every weekday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for seniors over 55 and their friends.

Children Who Read Books Get Cable Car Rides From Glide

by Leamon J. Abrams

Question: How do you eat an elephant?

Answer: One bite at a time. With almost 20 percent of high school graduates having trouble understanding what they read, and with so many children pulled away from books by television, the reading problem in this country is like an elephant—massive.

But with projects like the Great Cable Car Book Chase, the forces for literacy are taking a bite out of the elephant, as well as showing some Tenderloin kids a good time in parts of San Francisco they might not ordinarily get to.

On a sundrenched Saturday in October under brilliantly blue skies, 44 children, mostly from the Tenderloin, were treated to prizes and a free cable car ride from the Powell Street turnaround at Market to Aquatic Park, where they had lunch and heard stories read by Walter Mayes of Bantam and Dell Books, and listened to storyteller Awele Makeba.

These kids were invited to the event as a reward for having read at least four books in the previous month. The event is the brainchild of Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Church, who feels that reading is a vital part of each child's development. "If we can give kids a fun, interesting way to enjoy books," he says, "they're on the road to self-fulfillment."

Joyce Hayes, Director of Children's Programs at Glide and organizer of this event, said survival needs for low-income kids often don't include books. "Lower-income kids tend to move more often, have responsibility earlier, and little space to study," she said. "One of the ways the Jump Into Reading Program (at Glide) addresses this is we encourage kids to write about their lives, along with reading books about their culture."

Glide sponsored the event in conjunction with the San Francisco office of the national Year of the Reader.

Carrying brightly colored balloons that lent a festive air to the cable car, the children boarded with the help of about 20 volunteers. At each stop, the entire party sang out in unison, "1987—The Year of the Reader!" Tourists soon realized that this cable car carried special passengers, and could not be boarded. At the crest of the hill at California and Powell streets, the tourists waved to the kids, and the kids waved back, shouting, "Read a book to a child!"

Eleven-year-old Mishonta Byrd had read "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" as one of her four books. Saying she had never been on a cable car before, she stared down at the steep hill with huge, wondering brown eyes and asked, "Does this thing have good brakes?"

At Aquatic Park, Walter Mayes, sales manager at Bantam and Dell Books, read aloud to the children. "Part of what I want to do is get adults into reading," he told the Times. "I stress the art of reading—parents reading to their kids, and their kids reading back to them." For five years, he has read aloud to kids in libraries, bookstores, and other settings in hopes of stimulating interest in books.

After lunch, storyteller Awele Makeba entertained children with folktales from oral traditions, acting out parts and characters in each story. At times, Awele was so convincing that her audience jumped in terror.

Cambodian and Vietnamese interpreters were on hand to translate the stories told by Mayes and Makeba.

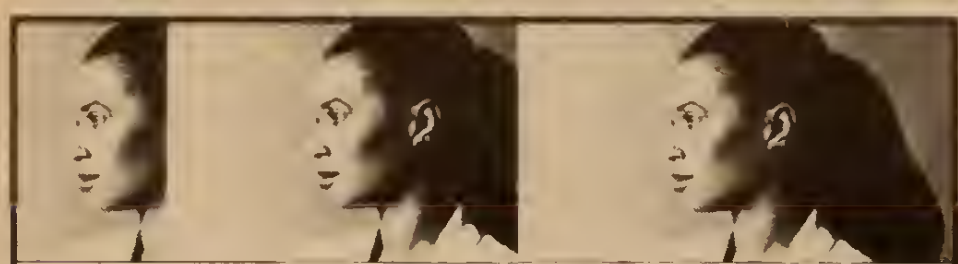
Eleven-year-old Nancy Nguy liked the cable car ride and storytelling best—especially 'The Belly Button Monster,' as told by Makeba.

Tenderloin resident Ming Lo said, "I like to read just for fun. I read 'Harriet's Halloween Candy.'"

At the end of the day, each kid took home balloons, a book, and a bookmark, reminders of a special day. And if second grader Therese Thomas is any measure, the project succeeded in its goal of motivating kids to read. "I have to read four more books so I can come again next time," she said.

Photo: Elliot Varner Smith

Tenderloin kids got a cable car ride and heard stories by Walter Mayes (right).



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Dangerous Traffic

continued from page 1

outlying districts speed through the neighborhood's grid of one-way streets, where lights are timed to usher vehicles swiftly downtown. This poses a severe hazard to the safety of children and slower-walking seniors and disabled who live in the neighborhood.

Living in small apartments and hotel rooms in a neighborhood with little open space, Tenderloin kids often find the street the only viable place to play.

Children can get so involved in a game that they don't pay attention, Sanders said, and they will dash suddenly into the street without thinking. They don't have the ability to estimate the speed of oncoming cars, how long they have before the light changes or their speed as they cross the street, she added. In addition, they may assume crosswalks are completely safe zones, and not watch out for swiftly turning cars or vehicles running red lights.

Every afternoon the sidewalks of the Tenderloin are filled with children as they spill off of school buses.

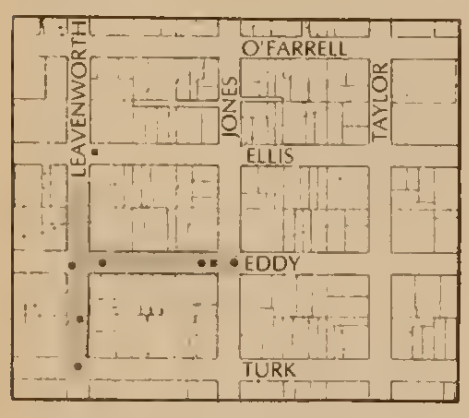
"The bus stops are all over the place," said Keith Grier, director of Boeddeker Park. "From 2:30 to 3:00 the buses are swarming around, letting kids off all over the place. Once they get off the bus, they just race down the street like crazy."

Three out of the seven child accident victims were hit between the hours of 2:30 and 5:30 during the week.

* * * * *

Two days after Sa Linh Nguyen was killed, Syvonne Thamma, who lives on Ellis Street, was walking with her son after picking him up at school. She held her son's hand as they crossed the street at Eddy and Leavenworth. But when they reached the curb, he suddenly ran back to pick up his homework, which he'd dropped in the street.

"I hadn't realized he'd dropped it," said Thamma. "He ran back to pick it up. A car screeched on its brakes and stopped about three inches away from my son. He almost got killed."



During the last three months, eight pedestrians, including six children, were hit by cars on the shaded portions of Eddy and Leavenworth, shown above.

The next day Eddy Street resident Hai Cong, 6, was hit by a car when he ran after his sister into Eddy Street. Paramedics who examined the boy found him uninjured and released him on the spot.

"They just ran out from nowhere," said a shaken driver Anita Kwan. "They had the red light. I had my green—it was completely green. Yet they didn't look at the traffic light."

A month earlier, six-year-old Walter Redding, Jr., was hit by a car at Leavenworth and Turk when he ran out between two parked cars. He is now in a body cast. The family had been told that Walter would not be permanently disabled, although obviously he will need a long recovery.

Both Sarith Soun, 6, and Sopheak Chhuoy, 10, were hit by cars in two different incidents, one in September and the other in August, when they darted across Eddy Street.

Gabriel Rodas, 9, had the green light when he entered the intersection of Post and Larkin on his skateboard on October 21, but it changed as he was mid-way through, and he was hit by a cab.

On September 30, Qu Trung Ly, 6, was also hit by a cab when he darted out into the street at Ellis and Hyde. "The cab was going fast but had the green light," said a witness. The cab driver, James Blechinger, told the police: "I was going straight on the green light when the kid jumped out in front of me. I slammed on the brakes, but I couldn't stop in time."

Nguyen Thi Cham with her daughter Sa Linh before the traffic accident that took Sa Linh's life on Nov. 1.

Seniors Also Hit

Children are not the only ones being mowed down on the streets of the Tenderloin. Five elders were hurt in traffic accidents in the last three months, of which one was a hit-and-run incident. Albin Shapanus, 59, was crossing with the green light in the crosswalk at Geary and Jones when a driver making a turn hit him, knocking him down.

"The driver jumped out of the car and was going to attack me," said Shapanus. "I said I was going to call the police and he took off in the car."

Seven of the people hit by cars had been drinking, although most were not classified by police as being "under the influence." In an accident in early August in front of Boeddeker Park, two men, both of whom police thought had been drinking, crossed Eddy Street against the light at 2:30 in the morning.

Police reports say that the first man attempted to stop oncoming traffic by waving his arms in an apparent effort to allow his friend, who was on crutches and had his left foot in a cast, to cross also.

An approaching vehicle stopped at the crosswalk and the driver yelled at the two men to get out of the way, according to the police report. He then attempted to drive around the first man, who stepped in front of the car and was hit. The second pedestrian, angered by this, smashed out the driver's left window with his crutch.

Many agree that children, parents and other neighborhood residents as well as drivers passing through the Tenderloin need to be educated about traffic safety. But it is going to take more than education to stop the accidents and the fatalities.

Even when children have been taught to memorize rules for how to behave in traffic, Dr. Sandels said, most under 9 do not have perceptual ability and physical coordination to put the rules into action, especially in an emergency or stress-provoking situation.

In the wake of Linh Sa Nguyen's death and the recent spate of other traffic accidents, neighborhood leaders are calling for a community meeting on December 11 to find ways to make the Tenderloin's streets safer for pedestrians. Some of the methods under discussion include:

- Putting up banners and signs to alert drivers to the many children and seniors who live in the Tenderloin;
- Slowing down the duration and desynchronizing traffic lights so that drivers cannot speed through the Tenderloin, but must pause at intersections;
- Putting speed bumps in alleys;
- Making some streets two-way to reduce and slow down traffic flow;
- Putting up barricades to stop jaywalking in mid-block;
- Getting more crossing guards;
- Educating children, families and drivers passing through the neighborhood about traffic safety.

Photo: Lance Woodruff

After school, the streets of the Tenderloin are filled with children as they spill off of school buses.

The community meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on December 11 at 333 Turk Street. It is sponsored by the North of Market Planning Coalition, the Bay Area Women's Resource Center and the North of Market Senior Center.

Quyen Quoc Tiet, Chanthanom Ounkeo and Sophath Pak contributed to this report.

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Teach Your Kids To Be Street-Wise

One of the best ways to teach your child how to cross streets safely is by your own example. Children learn by imitation. Cross on the green lights only, and always look for cars in both directions. Do not cross streets without holding on to the child's hand.

Sometimes children assume that if they can see a car, the driver can see them. Explain to them that because of their size, children may be out of the driver's range of vision. Even if a driver does see them, the child should not assume that he will stop. Drivers are often in a hurry and think only of getting where they want to go, and they may expect pedestrians to get out the way. Therefore, you should caution your child that they can't always expect to be safe in the pedestrian zone and should watch out for cars that are turning, speeding or running red lights.

Before you let a child cross the street alone, stage some rehearsals. Ask the child to decide when you both should cross. Frequent rehearsal gives you an idea of what your child actually knows, not just what rules they have memorized.

Find out if your child can read the "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs, and test whether they actually look first to the right, then to the left, then right again before crossing the street.

Safety Tips to Teach Your Children:

- Cross only at street corners, with the green light and the walk sign.
- Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Do not trust traffic lights alone. Always look both ways to make sure the street is clear.
- Watch out for cars turning, backing up or running red lights.
- Do not cross between parked cars or in the middle of the street.
- Do not fool around while crossing the street by pushing other children or not paying attention.
- Be extra careful when you can not see well—in rain or fog or at night.

Safety Tips for Drivers:

- Never expect that a child in traffic, either as a pedestrian or on a bike, will behave the same as an adult.
- Expect children playing on a sidewalk or at the roadside to be so involved in their game that they may suddenly dash into the street.
- Never be sure that children grasp a traffic situation as a whole. Often, they do not. They may notice either only one detail or just a bunch of cars going back and forth.
- Children do not have the same ability as adults to estimate the speed of oncoming cars or their own speed as they cross the road. This is one reason for their unexpected "dash-outs."
- Never believe that a child sees you just because he is looking your way. You can see the child's eyes, but the child cannot see your expression until you are quite close, since the child is outside in bright daylight, while you are sitting in a dark car.

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Wanted: Seniors Interested In Sharing Their Stories

The Adult Benevolent Association of St. Anthony Foundation would like to hear from seniors who might be interested in creating a forum for the sharing of stories—possibly in a senior "communique" or an oral history project. They welcome input from Tenderloin elders who have skills in art, like to write, have stories to tell, or would like to try their hand at editing. Call Mickey Williamson or Edi Calvert at 552-1169.

BUSINESS

everybody's business

by Pete Childress

What do a refugee from the 1956 Hungarian Uprising, a Ph.D. who used to teach at the Defense Language Institute in the Presidio, and a former drug-abuser turned ham radio operator have in common? Answer: all are street artists or vendors selling their wares in that most colorful of San Francisco locations, the cable car turnaround at Hallidie Plaza.

On Powell in front of Woolworth's, Laszlo Strasser operates a shiny chrome Rube Goldberg-type of machine—actually a souvenir medallion press—and sells wooden cable cars and cable jewelry. He looks dapper in his blue blazer, yachting cap and neatly-trimmed white beard. In a world of uncertainties, he's sure about one thing: "In America, anyone who wants to work can find it. There are plenty of jobs. All it takes is a will to work."

Strasser fled from Hungary in the aftermath of the Soviet suppression of the 1956 revolt and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1973, he moved to San Francisco with his wife and became a street photographer. He made a reasonably good living at that, he says, until a couple of years ago when another photographer cut in on his territory and undercut his prices by half.

Photo: Lance Woodruff

Street artists like Laszlo Strasser make Powell and Market a lively corner.

No stranger to adversity, Strasser changed to his current business at Halladie Plaza, where he rents space in front of Woolworth's. His medallion press, he says with pride, is the only one of its kind in California. It accepts either pennies or quarters and delivers an oval medallion with a choice of San Francisco scenes of the Lord's Prayer.

Fellow vendor Merlin Willis is a street artist who makes and sells jewelry. A young man, vibrant and sure of himself, Willis has a dry and ready wit. Formerly involved with drugs, he met a woman several years ago in Berkeley who taught him how to make jewelry. He has specialized in custom silver and gold jewelry for over two years now and has been selling at Hallidie Plaza for 18 months.

"Sometimes it's a zoo," he says, "but I can be my own boss and set my own hours." His hours are longer than most office workers. Willis gets up at 6 a.m. to create his jewelry pieces, sets up at the cable car turnaround at 9, and knocks off about 4:30 in the afternoon —six days a week.

Like most street artists in that area, he's been assaulted several times—once by a woman preacher who accused him of being the devil. "But it sure beats being on welfare and gives me something legitimate to do," he says with a grin.

Willis is also a licensed ham radio operator and with the hand-held unit he keeps at his side, he chats regularly with friends in San Jose, Los Angeles and Seattle while he works on his jewelry at the plaza. A member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Willis helped pass along messages to out-of-town relatives of survivors of the L.A. earthquake in September. I don't know why I was surprised to hear that; after all, reaching out to help others—even if they're thousands of miles away—seems to be a Tenderloin trait.

John and Sandra Bass have been selling their jewelry at Hallidie Plaza for over a year. A large, gruff man with a surprisingly tender side, John got a Ph.D. in German Studies at Washington University in St. Louis before coming to California with his family to teach German at the Defense Language Institute in the Presidio. He was laid off after working only one year, in April 1985. Then 54 years old, he found it hard to begin to compete with younger graduates, so he and Sandra began making and selling jewelry.

They say that street vending has its good and bad points, and while it's not the profession of their choice, they're making the best of the situation.

"We like the independence," says says Sandra with a smile. "Where else can you work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for five cents per hour?"

Getting panhandled, pestered and even assaulted is a regular fact of life for those working at Hallidie Plaza. John was wearing a pair of goggles around his neck the day I interviewed him. He was hit by Mace two weeks ago for the second time.

"It's beginning to be a regular occurrence," he says. "The police are still trying to catch the guy who has been threatening vendors with Mace on the first of the month for the last 12 months."

John has nothing but praise for the police who patrol the plaza, enthusiastically singling out Sgt. David Herrera and Officers Tom Menelke and Stephanie Geer.

"Herrera is one of the best police officers I've ever met," says John. "He treats people with great restraint and respect, even the abusive drunks and petty criminals. He takes a genuine interest in the people and their problems, even the ones he has to arrest."

Turning the conversation to vendors' gripes, I hear many stories about noise, plus complaints about panhandlers, drunks, preachers with big amps and "the noise of 18 steel drums at the same time."

By now, I can imagine those 18 steel drums pounding in my head like an old Bayer aspirin commercial, so I bid farewell to John, Sandra, Merlin and Laszlo, feeling strangely happy to have people like them contributing their special magic, making the Tenderloin the "only in San Francisco" place that it is.

* * * * *

Street artists are certified by the San Francisco Arts Commission. Permits are $160 a year and are issued only for sales of seller-made works; mass-produced items or works by another party may not be sold. Write to the commission at 45 Hyde Street, #319 or call 558-3463.

Street peddlers must apply in person for their licenses at the San Francisco Police Department. Call 553-1115.

Food vendors must obtain a permit from the Health Department at 558-4731. The annual license fee for food vendors is $385.

Non-profit street peddlers are licensed by the State Attorney General's office. Call 1-800-952-5225.

LOOSE CHANGE

John Dabrow, director of the Central YMCA, says that he expects Don Feeser, of the North of Market Planning Coalition, to take over from Dabrow as chair of the block captains for "Tenderloin Alive," the organization that, among other things, sponsors the regular Tenderloin clean-ups.

"Don is an effective and well-respected organizer," Dabrow says, "so we expect that his leadership will make the organization even more effective than it has been in the past."

The Eddy Market, known for its food giveaways to the homeless during the holidays, was sold in November. Mehran Golchehreh says the ten-year-old business has become too much for him and his brother Saied to operate, especially since Mehran also owns Pari's Deli at 842 Geary Street. The family says they'll start another business, but it's too early to say when or where. The new owners of Eddy Market were unavailable for comment by deadline, but I hope to interview them in the next issue.

If you are a merchant who wants a say in what's happening in the neighborhood or wants to improve things for your business and your family, consider joining the Concerned Businesspersons of the Tenderloin. By becoming a member of the CBT and participating in the association, you will help to improve not only your own business and the business climate in the Tenderloin, but the very environment of the neighborhood itself. There are solutions to the issues the Tenderloin faces—crime, filth, parking, vandalism—but it takes a loud, strong voice to get action from city government. That's what the CBT is all about. For more information, call CBT president Adam Gottstein at 441-2200.

eatin' the loin

by Preston Brady III

Gita's India Cuisine
1048 Market Street
Daily: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
864-4306

No cuisine better deserves to be called exotic than the savory dishes of India. The Indian chef takes basic staples like meats, potatoes, beans, rice and vegetables and almost magically transforms them through subtle use of spices and curries.

Gita's India Cuisine between 5th and 6th streets on Market Street is a recently opened restaurant that deserves immediate recognition.

Minus any sign of opening jitters, owners Pavin and Gita Bhagat deliver charm, intimacy, elegance and reasonable prices on a stretch of Market dotted with all too many fast-food franchises.

Atmosphere and expert service are in top form here. I can't remember the last time restaurant service was as prompt and cordial as it was during a busy Friday afternoon in this restaurant. The staff is more than willing to answer any questons about the ingredients of dishes, they promptly refill water glasses (essential in a place that serves spicy food) and they don't make you wait for the check.

Each table is attractively set with a white tablecloth, flower, and candle. The Indian music that plays lightly in the background and the traditional art decorating the walls evoke the flavor of India.

I'm not an expert on Indian food, but even I can appreciate a dish such as masala dosa, a crispy foot-long crepe filled with potatoes, peas, onion, lentils, and seasoned lightly with mustard seeds and yellow curry. This dish is served with a relish called chutney. When I went to Gita's, the chutney of the day was coconut and lentil, a delicious complement to the masala dosa. Also served with masala dosa is dal, a richly flavored, faintly sweet lentil soup. Masala dosa is $3.95.

Idi sambar is another lentil soup, served with a rice cake sitting in the middle of the bowl, which only costs $2.50. This is a refreshingly different kind of soup, and I enjoyed the rice-cake, which tasted like cornbread to me. Seasoned with mustard seed, this soup has a spicy afterglow, a sort of tingle enhanced by the environment of the restaurant.

Other selections look equally inviting. Meat samosas ($2.50) are deep-fried pastries filled with ground beef and green peas and served with sauce. Onion pakoras ($2.50) are six spicy onion fritters. Gita's also offers chicken, lamb and vegetable curry dishes at very reasonable prices.

This is a great place to bring friends and out-of-town visitors. And if you can't fit Bombay into your travel itinerary, you don't have to. Gita's brings a bit of Bombay to San Francisco.

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How Racism Split GIs in 'Nam

by Pete Childress

Frankly, on my list of things to do on a Thursday night, going to a play comes right after elective surgery. But being the "house veteran" at the Tenderloin Times, I was tapped to review "Wasted," a play by Fred Gamel about racial strife among American troops in Vietnam. And, man, am I glad I went!

"Wasted" is anything but a waste of time. The story line is dynamic, deep, engrossing, and packed with pathos and action. With the able direction of John Doyle, the young, all-male cast creates fully fleshed-out characters through strong dialogue and excellent acting.

The quality of the production and the sets is outstanding, and the intimacy of the Buriel Clay Memorial Theatre brings the audience right into the action.

The play takes place in Vietnam the morning and evening of April 6, 1968, the day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. To describe the play as being about racial strife is too shallow an evaluation. "Wasted" is about trust and mistrust among men, and the realities of survival that override all other considerations in war.

In a coastal base near Chu Lai, a Marine platoon already polarized along racial lines hears rumors of Dr. King's death, racial rioting "back in the world," and near-mutinies in other American units. These rumors, combined with exhaustion, fear, and casualties, create a mounting tension among the men of the platoon, bringing them to the brink of a civil war amidst the carnage already surrounding them.

Veteran Darrell Williams is totally believable as the troubled Lance Corporal "Spider" Evans, a young black Marine from an East Coast inner city who is pushed over the edge by the news of King's death.

Kevin Moore, a native San Franciscan, stands out as Lance Corporal "Mac" McNeil, the platoon's worldly-wise, cynical and racist RTO (radio/telegraph operator), even though the role is more supportive than pivotal.

Beyond portraying conflicts between blacks and whites, Fred Gamel's script explores several differences of perception: the short-timers versus the new guys, the draftees versus the lifers, the cynical versus the innocent, the city-born versus the country-bred, and responsibility versus irresponsibility.

In fact, the entire play seems to be about responsibility and where it should lie. To whom do you offer your ultimate loyalty? Your race? Your military superiors? Your ideals? Yourself? Or the men you fight and die with?

No matter what you expect going in, you're going to be shocked and profoundly touched by the surprising ending to this play.

"Wasted," chosen the Best New Play Produced Outside New York by the American Theater Critics Association, is playing through December 20 at the Buriel Clay Memorial Theatre in the Western Addition Cultural Center, 762 Fulton St., San Francisco. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays through Sundays, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is $8 on Thursdays and Sundays, $10 on Fridays and Saturdays. For information: Jumoke Hinton at 644-3005.

Photo: Lance Woodruff

A new recruit, played by Norm Ellsworth (left) is subjected to verbal blasts from his drill sergeant, played by Kevin Gagen (right) in "Honey Bucket."

Vets Play Out Trauma of War

by Max Reif

Some of us were so naive in the 1960s that when we condemned the U.S. Vietnam War effort, we self-righteously included in our condemnation the soldiers who fought that war.

At a dress rehearsal of the play "Honey Bucket" by veteran Binaley Danguilan Escueta, I had my most recent, and perhaps my most vivid opportunity to re-live the war through this play, an intensely realistic evocation of Vietnam.

Atmospheres created by sound, lighting, costume, script and the light from the eyes of actors who were Vietnam veterans made me feel I was in a sultry jungle atmosphere.

I shared intimacy and helplessness with men whom I came to see as my own platoon buddies. I grieved with Private Andres Bonifacio, played by author Escueta, when his best friend was killed the day before he was to return home. I was outraged along with Jonsey, a black soldier whose fellow American soldiers subjected him to racial slurs, and who found himself no longer able to continue fighting for a country that had spawned such racists.

As a result of feeling at one with the actors, I realized that the American soldiers in Vietnam, locked into their situation, behaved as anyone else would have.

"Honey Bucket" was more than simply a re-creation of events. In a way, it partook of the original events themselves, and went on to heal them. Nearly all the actors were Vietnam veterans, and performing this play has been part of their healing process.

In fact, at the end of each performance, the actors and playwright held a discussion with the audience. "You can't just do the play and walk away," said Escueta—especially because there were usually veterans in the audience whose unpleasant war memories were often stirred by the performance. These discussions were designed to "bring closure" to the painful memories the play may have opened up.

And Escueta knows only too well how painful it can be to relive memories of combat. He is no stranger to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—the recurrence of intensely emotional flashbacks from combat years ago.

"Honey Bucket" was a montage in which Private Bonifacio's post-war civilian life kept switching back into a past that continued to torment him. The stage became a vision of his mind. Sometimes drowning out the voice of his wife or friends in his present life, the voices of men from his platoon spoke to him.

Reduced to the point of suicide near the end of the play, Bonifacio heard from within him the voices of his dead buddies talking to him. "If you join us, then we died for nothing," said one.

"Vietnam was a lesson in pain and sensitivity," said another. "It opened our eyes to reality. But you can change the ugliness into beauty, man."

And Escueta has changed the ugliness into beauty, both in his personal life, realizing that he could incorporate the seeming meaningless absurdity of Vietnam into a new, larger whole; and in creating this powerful dramatic event called "Honey Bucket."

The lines above had me in tears as I witnessed communication beyond the play, communication in which Escueta, as Bonifacio and as himself, met with his dead buddies through the medium of drama. In rare cases like this, theater takes on the sacred quality that it had at its Greek origins, when drama was more than just entertainment, and

continued on page 11

Vietnam TV Show

continued from page 1

namese will eventually see the show, Trang, who was a student in Saigon in 1967 and 1968, said, "Sure, they will like this kind of show, with all the shooting and fighting. As long as they don't care about the content, it's good for entertainment."

Some vets, like Paul Cox, who was in the Marines in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, said no fictional show could convey what they experienced, that only documentary footage could even begin to give the viewers a true picture.

Melvyn Escueta criticized the show for ignoring the problem of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, in which the fears, anguish and emotions buried by vets during the trauma of wartime can crop up in later years.

Others came up with ideas for episodes. The series could show what the war was like for poor white, black or Hispanic 18- and 19-year-olds—and how some excelled at their jobs in Vietnam only to return to dead-end jobs or no jobs at all in the U.S., said veteran Jack McCloskey, who served as a Marine combat medic, without a weapon, in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968.

If Vietnamese interviewed by the Times could produce episodes for "Tour of Duty," they said, Americans would learn far more about Vietnamese history and culture. Also, battle scenes would be more intense.

"There should be machine-guns firing, people throwing grenades, and much more yelling and screaming," said Trang. "Their facial expressions should be very different because they are facing the God of Death."

Tam, an older Vietnamese man who worked at the French Consulate in Saigon during the war, said he would want to produce a program that would "show the strong will of the Vietnamese people against communism."

He and other refugees interviewed said that what Americans call the Vietnam War was only part of a larger conflict they call the "Indochina Battlefield."

"The wars in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos are really all one war," said Tam, "because they are all under the control of international communism."

Where are the Vietnamese Soldiers?

One inaccuracy in "Tour of Duty" that both the vets and the Vietnamese noticed was the absence of South Vietnamese government officials or army in most scenes.

But Vietnamese and vets parted ways in describing the behavior of American soldiers in Vietnam. In one episode, Americans evacuate a village and burn it to the ground.

"That did not happen unless it was necessary," said Nguyen. Tam added, "This is good propaganda for the communists because it makes America look bad."

Vet Steve Hassna totally disagreed with this image of American troops as restrained. "Years later, like a very bad dream," he said, "I realized that the way my unit in the 101st Airborne functioned, and it's sad because none of us really had that in mind, was not very different from the brutal way the Nazi SS Panzers operated in Eastern Europe during World War II."

On the subject of American soldiers' treatment of Vietnamese women in "Tour of Duty," American vets and Vietnamese refugees didn't exactly disagree, but they made different kinds of objections.

In one episode, an American soldier falls in love with a Vietnamese woman, and wraps his poncho around her at night during a rest from an evacuation march. They fall asleep sitting up, and awaken the next morning, very innocently, still clothed and sitting up.

Vietnamese interviewees found the episode out of keeping with their culture because women in the countryside were morally conservative and afraid of foreigners.

Vet Melvyn Escueta explained what really would have happened between an American soldier and a Vietnamese woman under those circumstances. "A woman like that—she would have been raped," he said, "Basically, our forces raped their way across that country. And our officers condoned it."

Both vets and Vietnamese criticized "Tour of Duty" for including too many Vietnamese who spoke English, saying the language barrier was a problem during the war, sometimes causing unnecessary deaths.

Eyes That Look Right Through You

Many aspects of the show were so different from vets' experience in Vietnam that they simply laughed at the series. "The soldiers look pretty healthy," commented Ed Jaworski. "They just got new uniforms and stepped right into it, huh? They look like brand new recruits, 'cherries.' No nails bitten down to the quick, no leeches? We want more leeches on this show!"

Both Escueta and Jaworski commented on how the eyes of the actors were clear and youthful, not like the eyes of the real soldiers when they were in Vietnam. "You harden yourself to the death around you, and it shows through your eyes," said Escueta. To picture the eyes of combat soldiers in Vietnam, he said, "Evaporate the youth out of the eyes. The face might smile, but the eyes don't."

Jaworski added, "They look right through you."

To veteran Duff Cole, who served in the army in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, the greatest danger of "Tour of Duty" is that it glorifies war. "They throw in little anti-war messages,' he said. "But it always seems to be an afterthought. It doesn't show the horror of combat, or it somehow makes the horror of combat exciting. And it is not exciting. It's simply horrible."

He said he wanted Americans, especially young men, to get a different message. "Don't kill another being, because it'll eat at you," he said. "If you kill another person, you're killing yourself, in a sense."

'The Commo Man' — A Veteran Remembers

© by Pete Childress

I never did know his name, not then, not now, but I knew I was entering one of those magical experiences pregnant with personal meaning. He was short and chubby, a moon-faced Asian about my age, hunched over his drink, drunk, gripped by an unnameable misery that had spread its tentacles to the marrow of his bone.

I sat down on the barstool to his right and ordered a beer. He turned to me briefly, red-rimmed eyes wet with grief, and said, "What do you know about guilt?" I looked at his face; tears were beginning to run down his cheeks, leaving glistening trails mapping the full extent of his sadness. He turned back to his drink, something pale and poisonous in a shot glass.

What did I know about guilt? Not a helluva lot. Guilt was the province of Catholics and Jews, mother's milk and stock-in-trade for born-again preachers, nothing I could ever feel. I won't allow it. Not me. Never. I build my walls firmly, every emotional brick in place, held fast by the best intellectual mortar my rationalizing mind can make.

He turned to me again, this round-headed, red-eyed stranger, his cheeks wet with shining misery, and a wall began to crumble. Images flooded my mind, 16-year-old pictures of blood, pus and tears in Paradise.

All I had to do was say, "Bummer, don't do it. . . ." and the spell would have been broken.

The morning was young and warm and comfortable in its adolescence, humming with insects and shimmering with a light that seemed to originate in the atmosphere itself. The ground was green, different shades of emerald that bespoke of peace and life and the timeless order of growing things. Another day in Paradise. Except for the throbbing in my hand. I looked down at my hand and wiped some more pus off of it, giving it a gentle squeeze. Another piece of shrapnel popped out. "Just like popping a pimple," I thought to myself, looking around at the other pimply faces surrounding me. The Sniper was sitting on a dike fiddling with his weapon, his sallow, pasty face showing white through the grime. The Bummer—our platoon sergeant—was resting on the edge of the rice paddy, soaking up the sun.

We were standing down, waiting for Dustoff to pick me up. I was being medivac'd because two weeks earlier Doctor Pepper couldn't get all the shrapnel out of my hand that I'd picked up when my LP (listening post) was ambushed, and now it was infected and swollen like a rubber glove filled with water from a faucet.

All of us were pretty pooped; we'd been chasing an NVA (North Vietnamese Army) battalion with a communications company attached for a couple of weeks with little success. We'd been getting ambushed at night pretty regularly, had been in a couple of running firefights and had lost a few men. I'll never forget Doc's face the morning he buried Pederson's leg. It was just a bloody stump in a boot, and nobody wanted to touch it, so Doc went over, picked it up and buried it in a hole. When I looked at Doc's face I saw something grim and horrible, as if it were his own leg he had buried. And I knew that in a sense it was, because Doc cared about his men and took every casualty as a personal affront.

But that beautiful morning while we were waiting for Dustoff some of the guys were laughing: we'd been joking for a week about "The Commo Man." We'd been finding bits and pieces of communications gear—a length of wire, a handset, some batteries—but the jokes were grim ones under the silliness, about what we were going to do to "The Commo Man" when we finally found him. We were all tired, bone-weary and dirty, scared and pissed off and frustrated from our losses and lack of rest, so this temporary respite from humping the paddies was a welcome one.

It all began innocently enough. I was sitting in the shade of a palm tree when an old man dressed in white pajamas and wearing a long, white, scraggly beard suddenly appeared on the trail. He looked like Father Time himself, somewhere between 70 and 90 years old. At his side was a young kid about 5 years old, his grandson probably. He didn't seem startled to see us, but instead put his hands together in the traditional Buddhist greeting and motioned for our permission to pass along the trail.

I looked at him, and then at the Bummer. Sarge glanced at the old man and the kid, and said, "Go ahead and let him through." I motioned to the old guy and told him he could pass. His face broke into a big smile and after a profusion of head-bobbing and bowing he took the kid's hand in his own and, still smiling, began to walk through our lines and down the path. It was a touching scene; my own grandfather and I had walked for miles through his citrus groves in Florida, an old man and a 5-year-old kid, hand in hand, walking in the early morning sunshine. Even though my hand throbbed, I felt a sense of peace at the memory.

That's when the trouble started. The Sniper, that dough-faced kid from Youngstown, Ohio, said, "Hey, Bummer! That looks like The Commo Man!" Everyone laughed at first. Then the Sniper piped up again: "Hey, Bummer! You gonna let The Commo Man get away?" I started to get a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Other guys were joining in the refrain. "Hey! That's The Commo Man! The Commo Man, The Commo Man, The Commo Man!" They were chanting in unison now. "Come on, Sarge," the Sniper said again, "You gonna let The Commo Man get away?" flashing the Bummer an evil leer. The Bummer lazily got to his feet and walked a few yards out into the rice paddy. By now the old man and the kid had disappeared from my view around a bend in the path.

I knew what the Sarge was going to do, but I didn't say anything. I just watched, as if in a dream, unconnected from the world around me, paralyzed, impotent. I could have stopped it. The Bummer and I were close. All I had to do was say "Bummer, don't do it." Just four little words, and the spell would have been broken. Instead, I said nothing, and watched as Sarge put his rifle to his shoulder, took aim and fired.

The shot was loud in the peaceful morning air. It echoed into the distance, a sound of finality carrying its message of death. There was a silence in the still air for about 15 seconds. No one said anything. The silence was complete.

I was already running down the path when I heard the wail. It was a solitary cry of anguish, long, drawn out, ululating, as if someone's soul were being rent in two. Suddenly, I was there, at the scene of my silent crime, standing over a little boy and a bloody bundle of white rags lying on the ground. The kid was staring at me, open-mouthed, snotty-nosed, tears coursing down his face, leaving tracks on his dirty cheeks, looking in my eyes and asking but one question: "Why?" We stood there what seemed an eternity, the skinny American soldier and the little Vietnamese kid, looking at each other, both knowing The Question, neither knowing the answer.

One of the new guys came over while we were standing there and took a photo of the scene with his 35mm camera. I knew the picture he took would fade with age, become old and torn and yellowed, forgotten in a scrapbook, stored in an attic and thrown out with the rest of the litter one young and warm and comfortable morning like this one. But the picture I took would never fade unless I built a wall around it. A sturdy wall. A strong wall. A great wall to hide a great crime. I looked around for the Bummer, but he had already walked back to the edge of the paddy. I looked at The Sniper. He was watching me with an ugly grin; satisfaction glinted in his eyes. I wanted to wipe that leer off his face with a burst from my M-16, for it was he who had instigated this murder, this treachery, this sin, and he was pleased with himself.

I heard the whump-whump-whump of a chopper in the distance and knew it was mine. I looked back at the kid, at his dust-and-tear-stained face, still asking me The Question without accusation. I looked down at my throbbing hand, pus oozing onto my fingers, leaving a trail in the grime like the kid's tears, and I turned to collect my gear under the palm tree. I thought to myself that I could have stopped this murder. But could I have stopped all of the murders I had seen in the last 9 months? Could anyone?

Dustoff was about to land. I picked up my gear and walked through the marking smoke to the paddy, angry with myself in my misery and guilt. As the chopper was lifting off I looked over the scene below me: men in dull green resting on bright green, a speck of red and white in the dust, a smaller speck kneeling by the red and white speck, and I knew I would never go back to the field. The wind from the chopper's pounding rotors felt cool on my face. I looked down at my still throbbing hand and wiped off the accumulating pus.

"What do you know about guilt?" he asked again. I was back in 1983, at Tiki Bob's, on the corner of Taylor and Post in San Francisco, my still cold beer in front of me. I looked at the voice, the round, Oriental face streaked with tears, and I said "I know." I was crying, too. He stared at me for a moment. He knew, then, that I knew. I put my arm around him and we sat there together for a long time, he crying into his shot glass of pale poison, me crying in my beer, sharing a misery that overflowed the walls men build.

Dedication:

I dedicate this story to Zebedee Whindleton, Jr. (known as "Dr. Pepper" to the men of his unit), the war's best medic, and my friend and brother for 21 years. A lot of men owe him their lives; at the very least, I owe him this story.

Author Pete Childress served in D 2/8, RECON, 1st AIR CAV, in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967.

'Honey Bucket'

continued from page 10

served to cleanse the soul.

But the healing power of theater was not restricted to Escueta's life. All veterans who performed in the play used "Honey Bucket" as a mode of recovery from Vietnam.

Joe, played by Yoshia K. Chee, performed a soliloquy in which he described being ambushed on patrol. A teenage boy with Yoshia was severely wounded and dying, and he was screaming in a voice that was sure to attract the enemy and get them both killed.

Joe realized that he would have to shoot the boy. Just before Joe was going to fire two bullets into the boy's head, the boy turned and looked at him, admitted that he'd never been kissed, and asked Joe to kiss him so he would know what it felt like.

Joe kissed him "full on the lips" and the boy died. As Chee pantomimed carrying the boy's body off stage, he uttered his last line: "I've been home from Vietnam sixteen years, and I've spent fourteen and a half of them locked up."

After the performance, Chee told the Times he had been narrating his own story.

"Honey Bucket" has been performed many times in the past 11 years in a variety of settings. Author Escueta chose to perform it at EXITheatre last month because he wanted to reach the many Vietnam veterans who he knew lived in the Tenderloin.

Somewhere, sometime, somehow, everyone should see "Honey Bucket."

Some people think you can catch AIDS from a glass.

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A public education campaign partially funded by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health. A project of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

'Amen Corner' Production Rings True

by Leamon J. Abrams

Rich in content, James Baldwin's play "The Amen Corner" speaks of family, love, loyalty, and fear. Many of the scenes take place in a church, and the quality of a recent production of the play at the Bayview Opera House was so good that it drew more than a few "amens" from the audience.

Directed by Tenderloin resident Keith Grier, the cast, mostly from Four Visions Production Company, played their roles with precision and conviction.

The play begins with a scene of Sister Margaret, pastor of a Harlem church, played fervently and unflinchingly by LaDrich. She is preaching to her faithful congregation about the evils of sin. Though they now respond to her with a cacophony of "amens," by the play's end, they are ready to dump their spiritual leader.

Like many black women growing up in the 1950s, Margaret's whole life is her husband family—her husband and her son. But when her husband leaves them, she becomes the evangelist, Sister Margaret, convinced that since she has found the Lord, she has to save the world, particularly the good-timing, liquor-consuming, pleasure-seeking Harlem community.

She imposes tough standards on her congregation. For example, when one long-unemployed member is lucky enough to get a job driving a liquor truck, she blasts him publicly in church. She steadfastly refuses to let her son David listen to the "sinful" music of Duke Ellington and other Harlem jazz greats.

Eventually, her holier-than-holy attitude begins to rub the congregation the wrong way. Some of them take offense at the way she chastises church members for taking the only jobs available to black people, while it is their money that buys her new refrigerator, the only one on the block.

Sister Margaret's moment of truth comes when her husband returns after a 20-year absence. About to die, Luke wants to spend his remaining time with his son and wife, but for all her righteousness, Sister Margaret cannot forgive him.

As the play unwinds, the audience begins to understand why Sister Margaret gives her love to the church, rather than to people. Unlike her husband, the church will never leave her. Her character reminds us of how easy it is to be blinded by pain.

As the play nears its end, Margaret's son David falls away from the church and her husband Luke dies.

But Baldwin's message is not one of condemnation of women like Margaret. The audience comes to appreciate her pain and empathize with a black woman raising a child alone. We begin to understand why she is so hard on her son—how do you adequately prepare a young black man for life in white America?

We see that she loved her husband, but that Jesus and the church were the only consistent forces in her life. By the end of the play, the audience I was part of nodded "amens" of encouragement to Sister Margaret.

The old religious songs dotted throughout the play caused quite a few feet to tap. Songs like "I Got the Holy Spirit," "While In His Care," and "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" voiced the perseverance of a people long accustomed to waiting for theirs in the next life.

At various points in the play, James Baldwin, played by Frederic Luckett, resurfaces to reveal intricacies of certain scenes. Through Luckett, the audience also comes to know Baldwin the playwright.

After the play, director Grier discussed the problems in producing community-based theater. "It's important that the black community show their support by patronizing these types of plays," he said.

True to the character of community theater, said set designer Keith St. Claire, "All of the (set) materials came from the neighborhood."

As for me, I give this production four "amens"!

Rose Linda Show A Big Success

Tenderloin artist Rose Linda's show at the Bruce Velick Gallery last month was a big hit. She sold all 17 pastel drawings and paintings. "She has a very good sense of color and design and uses the pastels in very unusual and interesting ways by layering them," said Sharon Tannenbaum, director of the art program at Hospitality House, where Rose Linda paints. Formerly homeless, she is now living in a South of Market hotel.

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calendar

Compiled by Josh Brandon

DAILY

AIDS Counseling: For women. Sponsored by the Partners Outreach Project. Call 821-8764 or 821-5451.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 291 Eddy St., Monday thru Friday, 7:30 p.m. **Free.**

Crisis Line: Crisis line for the disabled. 24 hours. 1-800-426-4263.

Family Violence Project: Crisis intervention, support counseling, case investigation, criminal prosecution, and follow up in domestic violence problems. Call 821-4553.

General Assistance Advocacy Project: Counseling and representation by law students advocates for problems with G.A. and Food Stamps. 383 Eddy, Monday thru Friday, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Free.**

New Friends: Emotional and practical support on one-to-one basis with newly diagnosed men and women with AIDS/ARC. 24-hour client intake. Call 928-5352. **Free.**

Senior Medication Education Program: Personal medication record consultations and guides for those 55 years or older. Call 558-3767.

Stress Clinic: For those who experienced traumatic life event. Once-a-week therapy. Sliding scale. Call 476-7513, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

MONDAYS

Fitness Classes: For seniors. Have more energy, flexibility, mobility, vitality. Central City YMCA, 220 Golden Gate. Warm-up 8 a.m. Class 8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. **Free** to members. Nonmembers 8 weeks/$10.00.

Support Group for Older Gay Men: 60 years or older. Sponsored by Operation Concern/GLOE. 1853 Market St., 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Call 626-7000. **Free.**

TUESDAYS

Tai Chi Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays on Rooftop Garden of Central City YMCA, 220 Golden Gate. Call 1-2 p.m. Call Senior Center for details.

Tenderloin Sewing and Quilting Group: Learn and share skills and materials. 54 McAllister St., 1-3 p.m. Call 558-8759. **Free.**

Information Exchange: For women with AIDS or ARC. S.F. AIDS Foundation, 25 Van Ness, Sixth Floor, 2-3 p.m. **Free.**

AIDS Antibody Testing: Sponsored by Planned Parenthood at Financial District Women's Health Center, 582 Market St., 5 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Call 982-0707 for appointment. $45.00.

Support Group For Battered Gay Men: Led by licensed therapist. Community United Against Violence, 514 Castro St., 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Call 864-3112. **Free.**

NOW Meeting: Addresses women's issues every third Tuesday. Women's Building, 3583 18th St. Call 929-1865 for time. **Free.**

WEDNESDAYS

Rhythm Band: For seniors, 481 O'Farrell, 9:30 a.m. **Free.**

North of Market Housing Committee: The Committee works to educate Tenderloin tenants and to improve building conditions. 308 Eddy St., 11 a.m. **Free.**

Crime Abatement Committee: First Wednesday of every month. Cadillac Hotel Ballroom, 380 Eddy St., 1 p.m. **Free.**

Single Parents Support Group: Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate Ave. 1-2 p.m. Call 554-0518 for details. **Free.**

Matinee: Afternoon of movies, discussion and refreshments. Sponsored by Operation Concern/GLOE/North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk St., 2:15 p.m.-4 p.m. Call 626-7000 for details. **Free.**

Tenderloin Police/Community Relations Committee: First Wednesday of every month. Cadillac Hotel Ballroom, 380 Eddy, 1 p.m. **Free.**

Women Writers' Workshop: For older lesbians (60+) and friends. Sponsored by Operation Concern/GLOE. 1853 Market St., 6-8 p.m. Call 626-7000. **Free.**

THURSDAYS

Quilting Classes: Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate, 9-11 a.m. **Free.**

Veterans' Open House: Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **Free.**

FRIDAYS

Women Writers' Workshop: For women working or living in the Tenderloin. Bay Area Women's Resource Center, 318 Leavenworth, 9:30-11 a.m. **Free.**

Women's Day: Rap groups, socializing, a chance to meet other women. Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate Ave., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Free.**

Photo Group: Picture taking, instruction, darkroom, field trips, and photo services. Central City YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 1:30-5 p.m.

SATURDAYS

Ballroom Dancing: With Ray Bell and his band. Refreshments served. Golden Gate Park Senior Center, 6101 Fulton St., 2-4 p.m. Call 558-4268 for Details. Donation $1.00.

More A.A.: Lyric Hotel, 140 Jones St., 5 p.m. **Free.**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, December 4:
Silent Auction: For Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Handicapped. Merchandise and gifts donated from Bay Area, prices you can't afford to miss. Bush and Larkin, 5:30 p.m. Call 441-1980 for information.

Friday, December 11:
Glaucoma Screening: Glaucoma eye tests for adults over 35. Health Center #4, 1490 Mason St., 8:10 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Call 558-3158 for appointment. Optional $5 fee, no one denied service.

Saturday, December 12, 13, 19, 20
Craft Show and Entertainers: 130 craftswomen and entertainers will sell their wares and perform in Ninth Winter Celebration of Craftswomen. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Volunteers will receive free admission. T-shirt, gala volunteer party in January. Call 431-1180 for information.

December 17, 18 & 19:
Musical Play: "Street Song," an original Christmas fable. EXITheatre, 366 Eddy St., 7:00 p.m. **Free.**

Tuesday, December 22:
Pot Luck: Winter Solstice pot luck with videos, sponsored by S.F. National Organization for Women. Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 7:30 p.m. Call 929-1865 for details.

Monday, December 28 thru 30:
Mammography Screening: Mobile Mammography Van of UCSF offers screenings for women 35 and older. Van will be at Civic Center on McAllister between Larkin and Polk, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Appointments made Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Call 990-0459 or 476-2193. $40 fee by check, money order, Visa, Mastercard.

Picture This: No Place to Play

Photo: Nita Winter

"Children, Children Everywhere, and Not a Place to Play" is the title of a new photo show about Tenderloin children by Nita Winter. Sponsored by the Bay Area Women's Resource Center, the exhibit will run from Dec. 2 to Jan. 20 in the children's room of the main library. The Resource Center's latest survey of the Tenderloin's 5,500 children shows that half of them are pre-schoolers under the age of 4. Sixty six percent of TL kids are Southeast Asian, 16 percent are black, 8 percent are white, and 6 percent Hispanic.

Holiday Happenings

Saturday, December 5:
Holiday Carnival: Puppeteer Lewis Mahlman and Lakeside Bell Ringers featured, plus booths selling gifts, games, ornaments, books. Proceeds benefit Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum. At Randall Junior Museum, 199 Museum Way, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 863-1399 for details. $4 adults, $1 children.

Yule Mart Festival: Sponsored by St. Michael Family Schools. Santa Lucia Yule Mart Festival. Traditional handcrafts, food, music, dance. At 55 Fillmore. On 5th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;Dec. 6th, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. **Free.**

Sunday, December 6:
Christmas Festival Concert: Trinity Choir, soloists, harpist, organist perform music by Britten, Bach and Vaughn Williams. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush, 4 p.m. **Free.**

Thursday, December 17:
Holiday Concert: "Joan Baez and Friends: Sharing the Season," features Joan and Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Mimi Farina, S.F. Gay Men's Chorus and others in live performance at Warfield Theater, 9 p.m. Simulcast on KQED-FM 88.5.

Thursday, December 24:
KQED Specials: "Christmas Eve on Sesame St." follows Muppets and Holiday on Ice skaters as they finish last-minute holiday activities. Channel 9, 7 p.m. Then at 10 p.m., S.F. Conservatory of Music's traditional "Sing-it-Yourself" Messiah, simulcast on KQED 88.5.

Friday, December 25:
Christmas Ball: Christmas Ball for Seniors, sponsored by the Examiner and YMCA. 1500 seniors treated to holiday feast, dance music, children with homemade cards, elves with gifts, and bilingual translators. At Sheraton Palace Hotel. Call 776-8804 for details.

TOY GIVEAWAYS
World Relief: Free toys for children 12 and under. Must register for ticket for each child at World Relief Office in YMCA, 220 Golden Gate, 2nd floor, before Dec. 11. Tickets exchanged for toys on Dec. 19 at 7 Grove St., 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Each child must be present. Tickets limited.

Tenderloin 3rd Annual Festival of Lights: Tree-lighting ceremony, Boeddeker Park, 5-6 p.m. Dec. 14. Toy distribution at new Recreation Center in Boeddeker Park.

10th Annual Christmas Celebration: Sponsored by St. Anthony's Dining Room and Tenderloin Recreation Center, Dec. 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate. For kids 6-14. Comedian Michael Pritchard, juggler, Ronald McDonald, caroling, and stuffed stockings. Catered by McDonalds. Hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Call 621-5436 for details.

Glide Church: Toy giveaway, Dec. 24, 1 p.m. 330 Ellis at Taylor.

FOOD AND MEALS

Foodbasket Giveaway: Glide Church, Dec. 21, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 330 Ellis
Christmas Restaurant Lunch: Food from 30 restaurants at Glide Church, Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 330 Ellis.

Glide Church Annual Christmas Dinner: Dec. 25, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 330 Ellis.
St. Anthony's Annual Christmas Dinner: Dec. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 45 Jones.
Salvation Army Annual Christmas Dinner: Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 125 Valencia.

New to you

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St. Anthony's Thrift Shop
111 Golden Gate Ave.
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POETRY & PROSE

Tenderloin residents are encouraged to submit their work to: Poetry and Prose, c/o Robert Volbrecht, 146 Leavenworth, S.F., CA 94102 by the 15th of each month.

THE CLARIFICATION

In the toy hours
rain hammered its tiny nails
against my windowpane.
at dayhreak huildings were built
anew, a shining nakedness
shoring up wet 7th, Jones,
Market and McAllister
those streets that make
an energetic diamond;

no need to go to a show
the show is here
the Drummer crosses Market
and tells me so.
A homeless black man trails
a hlanket on McAllister
the color of sunrise
heading for a spot on Jones

Workforce and retired come up 7th
from the southern hotels; inhabitants
of North of Market
come down to Market for coffee
government clericals sport so gay
in spite of the fact they're
dressed in black and gray
with special shoes, happy shirts
they're glad they've got work
bosses and lawyers are on their way
sunlight reflected on a briefcase
and on a prized haircut foam in the sunlight

it feels so cool from the late-Month rain
like a blessing covering golden stones
that I'll follow the glitter of a paper crane
as I sort gray work by the window's sun
thinking pre-summer, post summer downpour.

Janice King

EARTHQUAKE PRAYERS ***

When it comes,
please don't let me be
in the middle of creating.
Please.
Don't let it separate me
from the things I cannot replace,
or touch,
or will to my children.

The hinges of all my doors
can loosen,
the doors can disappear.
I can deal with that.
And the windows.
Really, I don't care about windows.
What I need to see,
what I need to open,
is all inside me anyway.

When it comes,
I will hear voices
I have never heard
Have mercy on my ears.
Let me give the earth a pacifier
when it opens up to swallow.
Please, let it leave a path for me
that is no harder than my present one
to follow.

David Bissonette

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF ARMAGEDDON

You were a Teacher, a Brother, a Father,
A Lover. You were a Shaggy Dog.

It came to pass in New York City. You made dinner.
We invited ourselves to a Big Supper.

Worship was like fear with eyelashes cast down,
lest you throw me away or put my falsies up for comedy.

I told you and told you. But, your serious hlue eyes
had all the terseness of blue laughter. How do you stop that?

Of all the clever things I could do, you asked for my
wit upon the lofty question of money. What could I do for a dime?

We went to the Apollo, saw a movie in black and white.
On the floor of the bathroom were piles of dimes, nickels and
quarters.

I asked you, "Should I scoop them up? Where should I put them?"
"Swallow them." So, I did and they were attached to a long

black hair, made me pull them all up and shower them into the
toilet.
I'll remember the matching black and white tiles.

A woman washed her hands and began crossing herself and raining
tears like a symbol. You asked me what it meant. Why shouldn't

I have the money? "Oh," I said, "It's part of Church of the Latter
Day Industrial Revolution. Some people get to keep their souls.

Other people have already thrown them away." You said that
was a cliche
hut we made love anyway.

Alice Olds Ellingson

POEM—City Poem

That pigeon with the one eye
in the alley between Polk and Van Ness,
turning and turning, pecking at a pehble,
not being able to tell if it was food . . .
(Christ, it's not easy living in cities).

The man in the parked car rolled down his window
and threw it a boiled egg,
large and soft enough for it not to miss.
Later, when I offered it some croutons,
I thought of what a friend had said:
They're even denied a decency of death,
ending up a feathered piece of tar on the street.

And yet, I would wish more for this one
as I walked away, pleased that the bird's aim
had improved. I would wish more.

David Paul Bissell

UNTITLED

Pumpkins popping, carpeting
Dark rich fields, rising
Gold spheres atire
Beneath soft black Earth.

Last flurry of summer,
Jewels lavish, lush, living
In brown hands extended.

Strangers unforgettahle
Faces stern
Received Earth's fruits plucked
Lavishly from virgin land.

Kept alive strange pale people.
Brown skins smiling bore gifts
To uninvited guests.

Mary Tall Mountain

UNTITLED

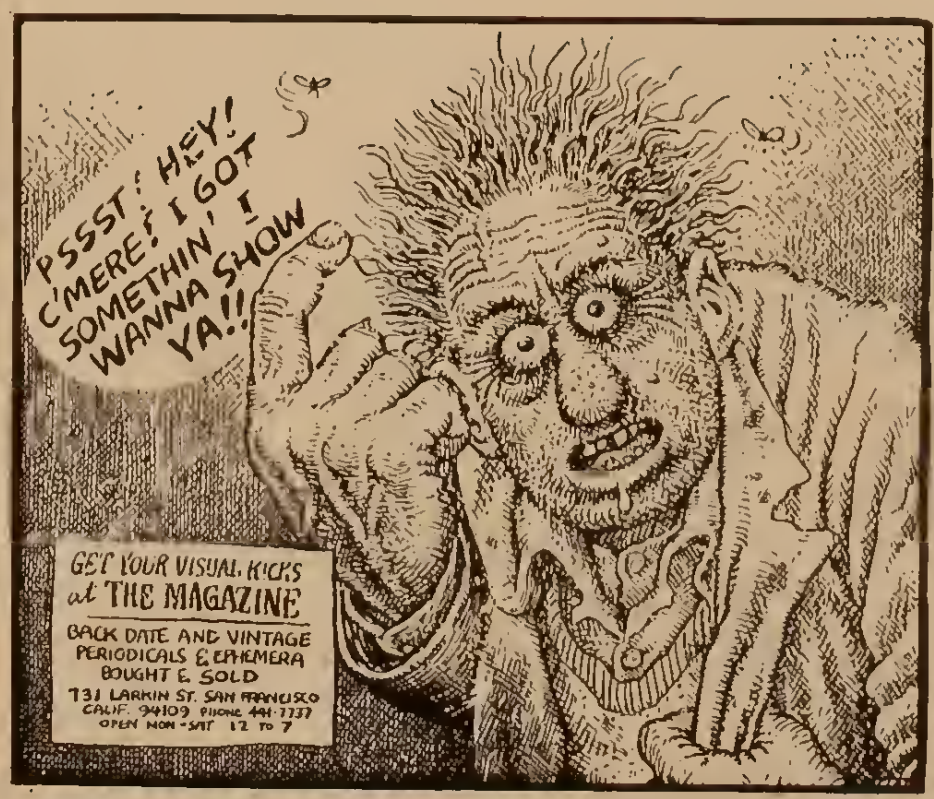
something is stirring
is it we?
or, is it
the black and green snake
on the pavement?
possibly the wind scorpion
lying on its hack?
or the cherished good luck
of the lizard?
my husband and i
and our six-month old son
descending
west, south, and north
into the deep ravine
day of the dead
floods of air
in which our laughter's muddled
rising from november surf
cold salt-air
huddled together now
in cabin corner
we feel the warmth
of wood stove still burning
content being together
and safe

Hillary Packard

FEEDING FRENZY

She circles, slowly
. . . waiting
like a shark
intent on making it
a quick meal.
She stops, eyes
the room: fast
focus on the men.
Nothing. Clones, all
of them. She moves
closer
to a nearby table
pauses . . reaches
arm strikes
with lightning
speed
fingers fly
teeth flash
and a canape
disappears.
She turns, walks
across the blood
red carpet
& out the door.

John Raymond



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ADVICE

The Best Holidays With the Least Stress

by Flo Kelly

The holiday season is billed as a joyful time—the highlight of the year. Yet, in our own lives, the holidays do not always seem to live up to our expectations. Some people have fond memories of previous holidays with loved ones who live too far away to visit, or who have passed on.

Commercialism in this country pushes gift-giving beyond its original intent. It is stressful to buy gifts that we can't afford or feel guilty for thinking we're not doing enough.

What can you do to get through the holidays with as little stress as possible?

• Think of what really makes you happy during the holidays and see if you and your family can agree on how to spend the holiday season. Create traditions that fit your needs. When making plans for yourself and your children, remember the people you spent time with during the holidays, a feast that brought people together, music, or the good feeling that you are part of the group.

• Make your celebration affordable by having a potluck, for example, or asking guests to participate in creating live music.

• Children who want to give gifts can make them instead of buying them: they could bake cookies, make frames for photographs, or give a gift certificate to empty someone's garbage for a week.

• Remember that children play with toys longer if they can manipulate them and create things with them.

• There are several places in San Francisco that have free toys for children in December, so be on the alert.

Holidays can be fun and joyful times. Relax, enjoy your traditions, and count your blessings.

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ការយល់សប្តិរបស់បងប្អូនសាន់ហ្ស្រាន់ ស៊ីស្ហ្ស ដែលអំពីរឿងវត្តភ្នាយបានការពិត

ដោយ ស្ងួតាត់ ប៉ាត់

សពតមខ្មែរនៅទីក្រុងសាន់ហ្ស្រាន់ស៊ីស្ហ្ស ដែលមានគោលបំណងគឺចង់ពន្យារវត្តដាច្ចរ ណាស់មកពីយតទ្ធ្ចវ ទើបតែពន្ធសំរេចៗ កាលពីខែមុន គេបាននាំគ្នាបង្ហាញ ពុទ្ធសម្ពាជវត្តថ្មីមួយកាលពីថ្ងៃទី១៥ខែ វិច្ឆិកាកន្លងទៅ គឺនៅសាលាប៊ីតាវ៉ាដ. ប៉ាស៊ីដ ដ្ឋានៗ ព្រះតេជគុណមហាឆ្ងសានន្ទា (ព្រះអង្គមហាយ៉ាវ) ព្រះអង្គគឺជាព្រះសង្ឆខ្មែរមួយព្រះអង្គដ៏សំខាន់ជាងគេនៅក្នុងសហគមន៍នេះ, ព្រះអង្គបាននិមន្តមកពីរដ្ឋ ប្ដ ដ ដ

ເດັກ ເຈັ້ດຄົນ, ເຖົ້າແກ່ຫ້າຄົນຖືກ ຣົດຕຳ ໃນລະຍະ ສາມ ເດືອນແລ້ວ

ແຕ່ງໂດຍ: ແສຣາ ຄອນ ແລະ ຈັນທຸມອນ ຈຸ່ມແກ້ວ

Photo: Nita Winter

ຕຳຣວດສອບຖາມຜູ້ເປັນຫລັກຖານພະຍານຫລັງຈາກຣົດຕຳ ນາງ ໂສພິກ ຈວຍ ອາຍຸ 10 ປີ ຢູ່ທີ່ຖນົນ ແອດດີ ໃນວັນທີ່ 14 ເດືອນໂອກັສຕ.

Police interviewed witnesses after ten-year-old Sopheak Chhuoy was hit by a car in front of Battambang Market on August 14.

ຖນົນໃນຄຸ້ມ ເຫັ່ນເດີລອຍ ເປັນຈັນຕະລາຍ ຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດ ແລະບາງ ເທື່ອຮ້ານ ແຮງ ເຖິງ ການ ຕາຍ ເນື່ອງ ດ້ວຍ ອຸປະຕິ ເຫດ ຣົດ ຕຳ, ຕາມ ທີ່ ໜັງ ສືພິ ມ ເຫັ່ນ ເດີ ລອຍ ທ່ານ ສ ໄດ້ ຮັບ ລາ ຍ ງານ ມາ ຈາ ກ ກົ ມ ແຈ້ ງ ຂ່ າ ວ ຂ ອ ງ ຕ ຳ ຣ ວ ດ ວ າ, ສ ່ ວ ນ ມ າ ກ ແ ມ ່ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ແ ລ ະ ຄ ົ ນ ເ ຖ ົ ້ າ ແ ກ ່ . ພ າ ຍ ໃ ນ ສ າ ມ ເ ດ ື ອ ນ ແ ລ ້ ວ ນ ັ ້ ນ , ຄ ົ ນ ຍ ່ າ ງ ຂ ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ 32 ຄ ົ ນ ຖ ົ ກ ຣ ົ ດ ຕ ຳ ຢ ູ ່ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ - ໃ ນ ຈ ຳ ນ ວ ນ ນ ັ ້ ນ , ມ ີ ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ເ ຈ ັ ດ ຄ ົ ນ ແ ລ ະ ມ ີ ຜ ູ ້ ເ ຖ ົ ້ າ ຫ້ າ ຄ ົ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ສ ັ ຍ ຊ ີ ວ ິ ດ .

ຊາ ວ ບ ານ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ມ ີ ການ ຕ ່ ວ ່ າ ຕ ່ ອ ການ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຈ ັ ນ ຍ ິ ດ ຍ າ ວ ວ ່ າ ຣ ົ ດ ຈ າ ກ ຄ ຸ ້ ມ ຮ ິ ມ ໆ ໃ ຊ ້ ຫ ິ ນ ທ າ ງ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ຜ ່ າ ໄ ປ ດ າ ວ ທ າ ວ ເ ພ າ ະ ວ ່ າ ມ ັ ນ ເ ປ ັ ນ ທ າ ງ ແ ລ ່ ນ ທ າ ງ ດ ອ ນ (ວ ັ ນ ເ ວ) ເ ພ ື ່ ອ ໄ ປ ເ ຖ ິ ງ ໄ ວ ທ ີ ່ ສ ຸ ດ , ຈ ັ ນ ທ ີ ່ ນ າ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຈ ັ ນ ຂ ລ າ ຍ ແ ກ ່ ຜ ູ ້ ທ ີ ່ ຍ າ ງ ຂ ້ າ ມ ຖ ນ ົ ນ . ທ ັ ນ ະ ດ າ ແ ລ ້ ວ , ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ໆ ທ ັ ້ ງ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ບ ໍ ່ ຮ ູ ້ ວ ິ ທ ີ ການ ສ ັ ນ ຈ ອ ນ ໃ ນ ທ າ ງ ຖ ນ ົ ນ .

ເ ດ ື ອ ນ ໂ ມ ແ ວ ນ ເ ບ ີ ວ ັ ນ ທ ີ ່ 1, ເ ດ ັ ກ ຍ ິ ງ ອ າ ຍ ຸ ສ າ ມ ປ ີ ຊ ື ່ ສ ິ ນ ຊ າ ງ ຂ ອ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ສ ັ ຍ ຊ ີ ວ ິ ດ ຖ ິ ກ ຣ ົ ດ ຕ ຳ ຕ ອ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຄ ົ ນ ນ ັ ້ ນ ແ ລ ່ ນ ຈ ອ ກ ໄ ປ ຖ ນ ົ ນ ລ ິ ບ ເ ວ ັ ນ ຈ ູ ດ . ຕ ໍ ່ ມ າ ໃ ນ ຈ າ ທ ິ ດ ດ ຽ ວ ກ ັ ນ , ລ ູ ກ ຊ າ ຍ ຂ ອ ງ ນ າ ງ ສ ິ ຈ ອ ນ ທ ັ ນ ມ ະ ລ ິ ງ ສ າ ອ າ ຍ ຸ ສ ີ ່ ປ ີ ກ ໍ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ຈ ອ ກ ຖ ິ ກ ຣ ົ ດ ຕ ຳ ຍ ອ ນ ວ ່ າ ແ ລ ່ ນ ຈ ອ ກ ຈ າ ກ ມ ີ ແ ມ ່ ໄ ປ ເ ກ ັ ບ ເ ອ ົ າ ເ ຈ ້ ຍ ບ ິ ດ ຮ ອ ນ (ໂ ຮ ນ ເ ອ ີ ກ) ທ ີ ່ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ຮ ັ ດ ຕ ິ ກ ຢ ູ ່ ທ າ ງ ທ າ ງ .

ໃ ນ ເ ດ ື ອ ນ ຕ ຸ ລ າ ແ ຊ ນ ເ ບ ີ ວ ັ ນ ທ ີ ່ 11, ເ ວ ລ າ 1 ໂ ມ ງ ຕ ອ ນ ບ ່ າ ຍ ທ ີ ່ 333 Turk ST ພ ວ ກ ເ ຮ ົ າ ຈ ະ ມ ີ ປ ະ ຊ ຸ ມ ແ ກ ່ ຊ າ ວ ບ ້ ານ ເ ພ ື ່ ອ ປ ึ ກ ສ າ ຫ າ ວ ິ ທ ີ ທ າ ງ ແ ກ ້ ໄ ຂ ໃ ຫ ້ ຄ ຸ ້ ມ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ມ ີ ຄ ວ າ ມ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ຂ ึ ້ ນ ແ ກ ່ ຜ ູ ້ ຍ າ ງ ຂ ້ າ ມ ຖ ນ ົ ນ . ສ ິ ່ ງ ຂ ອ ງ ຫ ລ ື ປ ້ າ ຍ ຖ ນ ົ ນ ບ າ ງ ຢ ່ າ ງ ທ ີ ຍ ັ ງ ຈ ະ ເ ອ ົ າ ມ າ ພ ິ ຈ າ ຣ ະ ນ າ ມ ີ ຄ ື :

* ປ ັ ກ ປ ້ າ ຍ ໃ ຫ ້ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ມ ີ ຄ ວ າ ມ ຣ ະ ວ ັ ງ ແ ກ ່ ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ແ ລ ະ ຄ ົ ນ ເ ຖ ົ ້ າ ແ ກ ່ ທ ັ ້ ງ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ໃ ນ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ,
* ປ ່ ອ ນ ໄ ປ ຈ າ ຣ ະ ຈ ອ ນ ເ ພ ື ່ ອ ບ ໍ ່ ໃ ຫ ້ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ເ ລ ັ ່ ງ ໄ ວ ຕ ອ ນ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ , ຕ ອ ງ ຈ ອ ນ ລ ົ ງ ແ ລ ະ ໄ ປ ຊ ້ າ ໆ ຕ ອ ນ ຜ່ າ ທ າ ງ ຕ ັ ດ ,
* ໃ ຊ ້ ມ ີ ຜ ູ ້ ຮ ັ ກ ສ າ ຄ ົ ນ ຂ ້ າ ມ ຖ ນ ົ ນ ເ ພ ີ ້ ນ ອ ີ ກ ,
* ໃ ຫ ້ ການ ສ ຶ ກ ສ າ ດ ້ ານ ຄ ວ າ ມ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ໃ ນ ການ ຈ າ ຣ ະ ຈ ອ ນ ແ ກ ່ ເ ດ ັ ກ , ຄ ົ ນ ໃ ນ ຄ ອ ບ ຄ ົ ວ ແ ລ ະ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ຣ ົ ດ ຜ່ າ ນ ໃ ນ ຄ ຸ ້ ມ .

ກ ອ ງ ປ ະ ຊ ຸ ມ ນ ີ ້ ໄ ດ ້ ຈ ັ ດ ຂ ึ ້ ນ ໂ ດ ຍ ທ າ ງ ອ ົ ງ ການ ມ ອ ດ ທ ອ ດ ອ ອ ຟ ມ າ ເ ກ ັ ຕ ແ ພ ລ ມ ນ ິ ງ ໂ ຄ ລ ໍ ລ ິ ເ ຊ ີ ມ , ສ ູ ນ ກ າ ງ ເ ບ ແ ວ ເ ຣ ັ ຍ ໂ ລ ເ ນ ັ ມ ຣ ິ ຊ ອ ດ ສ ແ ລ ະ ສ ູ ນ ກ າ ງ ມ ອ ດ ທ ອ ດ ອ ອ ຟ ມ າ ເ ກ ັ ຕ ຊ ີ ເ ນ ັ ຍ ຣ .

ຄົນລາວລໍ້ຖ້າຟັງການແຂ່ງຂັນເລືອກຕັ້ງຂອງ ເຈົ້າ ເມືອງ

ແ ຕ ່ ງ ໂ ດ ຍ : ຈ ັ ນ ທ ຸ ມ ອ ນ ຈ ຸ ່ ມ ແ ກ ້ ວ

ການ ແ ຂ ່ ງ ຂ ັ ນ ຄ ັ ດ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ເ ປ ັ ນ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ກ ໍ າ ແ ມ ງ ເ ມ ືອ ງ ແ ຊ ນ ແ ປ ຣ ນ ຊ ິ ສ ໂ ກ ຣ ະ ຫ ວ ່ າ ງ ທ ່ ານ ອ າ ດ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ ແ ລ ະ ທ ່ ານ ຈ ອ ນ ນ ໍ ລ ິ ນ າ ຣ ິ ໃ ນ ວ ັ ນ ທ ີ ່ 8 ເ ດ ືອ ນ ຕ ຸ ລ າ ແ ຊ ນ ເ ບ ີ ນ ີ້ ຈ ະ ໄ ດ ້ ມ ີ ການ ອ ອ ກ ສ ະ ແ ນ ນ ສ ຽ ງ ວ ່ າ ທ ່ ານ ໃ ດ ຈ ະ ໄ ດ ້ ຊ ະ ນ ະ ເ ປ ັ ນ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ເ ມ ືອ ງ . ຜ ູ ້ ສ ື ຂ ່ າ ວ ໜ ັ ງ ສ ື ພ ິ ມ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ທ ່ ານ ສ ໄ ດ ້ ສ ະ ສ າ ພ າ ດ ຊ າ ວ ລ າ ວ ບ າ ງ ຄ ົ ນ ຜ ູ ້ ລ ີ ້ ພ ັ ຍ ໃ ນ ຄ ຸ ້ ມ ເ ຫ ັ ່ ນ ເ ດ ີ ລ ອ ຍ ວ ່ າ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ຈ ະ ຄ ິ ດ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ປ ະ ການ ໃ ດ ກ ັ ບ ການ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ຕ ັ ້ ງ .

ປ ະ ຊ າ ຊ ົ ນ ສ ່ ວ ນ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ເ ປ ັ ນ ການ ຍ າ ກ ຊ າ ທ ີ ່ ຈ ະ ອ ອ ກ ຄ ວ າ ມ ຄ ິ ດ ຄ ວ າ ມ ເ ຫ ັ ນ , ກ ່ ຽ ງ ແ ກ ້ ວ ບ ຸ ນ ພ າ ນ ັ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ປ ່ ອ ນ ບ ັ ດ ເ ລ ົ າ ຜ ູ ້ ທ ີ ່ ລ າ ວ ເ ຊ ື ່ ອ ໃ ຈ ແ ລ ະ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ດ ີ ນ ໍ າ "ອ າ ດ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ " ລ າ ວ ເ ວ ົ າ ວ ່ າ ດ ັ ່ ງ ນ ີ້ "ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ຍ ິ ນ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ຄ ົ ນ ວ ່ າ ຖ ້ າ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ປ ັ ນ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ເ ມ ືອ ງ ເ ພ 	m ຈ ະ ຄ ້ ຳ ຊ ູ ວ ິ ນ ະ ຍ ິ ບ . ບ າ ງ ທ ີ ເ ພ ື ່ ນ ຈ ະ ຊ ຸ ຈ ຍ ພ ວ ກ ເ ຮ ົ າ ຊ ຸ ກ ດ ຶ ງ ເ ຈ ົ າ ຍ າ ດ ພ ີ ່ ນ ້ ອ ງ ຂ ອ ງ ເ ຮ ົ າ ທ ີ ່ ຍ ັ ງ ຄ ້ າ ງ ຢ ູ ່ ສ ູ ນ ວ ິ ນ ະ ຍ ິ ບ ມ ະ ຍ ິ ບ ມ າ . ສ ່ ວ ນ ທ ່ ານ ນ ໍ ລ ິ ນ າ ຣ ິ ນ ັ ້ ນ ບ ໍ ່ ໄ ດ ້ ຍ ິ ນ ເ ພ ື ່ ນ ທ ່ າ ວ ນ ໍ າ ເ ຣ ື ້ ອ ງ ວ ິ ນ ະ ຍ ິ ບ ເ ລ ີ ຍ . ບ າ ງ ທ ີ ເ ພ ື ່ ນ ອ າ ດ ບ ໍ ່ ສ ົ ນ ໃ ຈ ກ ໍ ບ ໍ ່ ຮ ູ ້ .

ບ ຸ ນ ຍ ອ ນ ມ ິ ດ ສ ະ ດ າ , ເ ຫ ັ ນ ດ ີ ທ ່ ານ ນ ໍ ລ ິ ນ າ ຣ ິ ໃ ນ ທ ີ ວ ີ ເ ພ າ ະ ເ ພ ື ່ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ທ ່ າ ວ ນ ໍ າ ການ ສ ິ ່ ງ ເ ສ ີ ມ ໂ ຮ ງ ຮ ຽ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ໃ ຫ ້ ດ ີ ຂ ึ ້ ນ ກ ່ ວ າ ເ ກ ົ ່ າ . ນ ິ ດ ສ ະ ດ າ ນ ິ ລ ູ ກ ເ ຂ ົ າ ໂ ຮ ງ ຮ ຽ ນ ທ ັ ້ ງ ຫ້ າ ຄ ົ ນ ແ ລ ະ ຫ ວ ັ ງ ໃ ຫ ້ ລ ູ ກ ໄ ດ ້ ຮ ັ ບ ການ ສ ຶ ກ ສ າ ດ ີ . ລ າ ວ ເ ວ ົ າ ວ ່ າ "ປ ັ ດ ຈ ຸ ບ ັ ນ ນ ີ້ ເ ດ ັ ກ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ບ ໍ ່ ໄ ດ ້ ຮ ຽ ນ ດ ີ ເ ພ າ ະ ວ ່ າ ຫ ້ ອ ງ ຮ ຽ ນ ມ ີ ນ ັ ກ ຮ ຽ ນ ເ ຕ ັ ມ ໂ ມ ດ ".

ທ ່ ານ ບ ຸ ນ ຈ ັ ນ ເ ທ ມ ໄ ກ ສ ອ ນ , ຫ ົ ວ ໜ ້ າ ສ ະ ມ າ ຄ ົ ນ ລ າ ວ ເ ກ ົ ່ າ ໄ ດ ້ ທ ່ າ ວ ວ ່ າ ຕ າ ມ ທ ີ ່ ຮ ູ ້ ກ ັ ນ ທ ັ ນ ທ ັ ນ ະ ດ າ ແ ລ ້ ວ ປ ະ ຊ າ ຊ ົ ນ ຄ ົ ນ ລ າ ວ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ດ ີ ທ ່ ານ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ກ ວ ່ າ ທ ່ ານ ນ ໍ ລ ິ ນ າ ຣ ິ ຕ ັ ້ ງ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ເ ທ ົ ່ າ . "ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ຮ ຽ ນ ຮ ູ ້ ແ ລ ະ ມ ີ ສ ິ ດ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ທ ັ ້ ງ ສ ອ ງ ຝ່ າ ຍ - ນ ີ້ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຄ ັ ້ ງ ທ ີ ່ ສ ອ ງ ທ ີ ່ ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ປ ່ ອ ນ ບ ັ ດ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ເ ຈ ົ າ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ເ ມ ືອ ງ ໃ ນ ອ ະ ເ ມ ຣ ິ ກ າ . "ຜ ູ ້ ທ ີ ່ ຈ ະ ມ າ ເ ປ ັ ນ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ເ ມ ືອ ງ ນ ັ ້ ນ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຜ ູ ້ ສ ຳ ຄ ັ ນ ທ ີ ່ ສ ຸ ດ ເ ພ າ ະ ວ ່ າ ເ ພ ີ ່ ນ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ໄ ດ ້ ປ ະ ຈ ຳ ໃ ນ ເ ມ ືອ ງ ນ ີ້ ເ ອ ງ , ບ ໍ ່ ແ ມ ່ ນ ຈ ະ ໄ ປ ປ ະ ຈ ຳ ຢ ູ ່ ໃ ນ ວ ໍ ຊ ິ ງ ຕັ ນ . ຄ ົ ນ ລ າ ວ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ຄ ົ ນ ຖ າ ມ ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ວ ່ າ ຈ ະ ປ ່ ອ ນ ເ ຈ ົ າ ໃ ຜ ດ ີ , ແ ລ ະ ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ບ ອ ກ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ຕ ັ ດ ສ ິ ນ ໃ ຈ ເ ຈ ົ າ ເ ອ ງ . ແ ຕ ່ ສ ຳ ລ ັ ບ ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ເ ອ ງ ຈ ະ ສ ນ ັ ບ ສ ະ ນ ຸ ນ ທ ່ ານ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ ເ ພ າ ະ ເ ພ ີ ່ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ອ ອ ກ ສ ຽ ງ ວ ່ າ ເ ພ ີ ່ ນ ຈ ະ ຊ ຸ ຈ ຍ ແ ລ ະ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ແ ຍ ງ ຄ ົ ນ ຕ າ ງ ເ ທ ົ ່ າ , ຄ ົ ນ ທ ຸ ກ ຍ າ ກ , ແ ລ ະ ຄ ົ ນ ວ ິ ນ ະ ຍ ິ ບ ເ ປ ັ ນ ພ ີ ເ ສ ດ ".

ທ ້ າ ວ ຊ ຸ ອ ງ ສ ີ ກ ໍ ສ ນ ັ ບ ສ ນ ຸ ນ ທ ່ ານ ແ ອ ກ ນ ໍ ສ ຄ ື ກ ັ ນ . ລ າ ວ ເ ວ ົ າ ດ ັ ່ ງ ນ ີ້ "ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ຍ ິ ນ ວ ່ າ ເ ພ ີ ່ ນ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຄ ົ ນ ດ ີ - ເ ພ ີ ່ ນ ຈ ະ ບ ໍ ລ ິ ຫ ານ ໃ ຫ ້ ມ ີ ໂ ຮ ງ ລ ້ ອ ງ ເ ດ ັ ກ ແ ລ ະ ມ ີ ໂ ຮ ງ ຮ ຽ ນ ຜ ູ ້ ໃ ຫ ່ ເ ພ ີ ້ ນ ຈ ິ ດ ສ ຳ ລ ັ ບ ຜ ູ ້ ກ 	m ເ ງ ິ ນ ແ ລ ະ ຜ ູ ້ ມ ີ ລ າ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ນ ້ ອ ຍ ", "ບ າ ງ ທ ີ ຂ ້ ອ ຍ ຈ ະ ໄ ດ ້ ມ ີ ກ າ ດ ຮ ຽ ນ ໜ ັ ງ ສ ື ແ ລ ະ ຫ າ ງ ານ ດ ີ ທ ຳ ມ າ ຍ ໃ ນ ອ ະ ນ າ ຄ ົ ດ ຄ ັ ້ ງ ໜ້ າ ".

ຊ າ ວ ວ ິ ນ ະ ຍ ິ ບ ຄ ົ ນ ລ າ ວ ສ ່ ວ ນ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ຍ ັ ງ ບ ໍ ່ ມ ີ ສ ິ ດ ປ ່ ອ ນ ບ ັ ດ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ທ ື ່ ອ ເ ພ າ ະ ວ ່ າ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ຍ ັ ງ ບ ໍ ່ ທ ັ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ສ ັ ນ ຊ າ ດ . ແ ຕ ່ ເ ທ ື ່ ອ ໜ ຶ ່ ງ ທ ຸ ກ ໆ ຄ ົ ນ ທ ີ ່ ທ າ ງ ໜ ັ ງ ສ ື ພ ິ ມ ໄ ດ ້ ໄ ປ ສ ຳ ພ າ ດ ຮ ູ ້ ຈ ັ ກ ເ ຣ ື ່ ອ ງ ການ ປ ່ ອ ນ ບ ັ ດ , ແ ລ ະ ຍ ັ ງ ມ ີ ອ ີ ກ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ຄ ອ ບ ຄ ົ ວ ລ ໍ ຄ ອ ຍ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ການ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ຕ ັ ້ ງ . ຈ ຳ ນ ວ ນ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ຄ ົ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ເ ປ ັ ນ ສ ັ ນ ຊ າ ດ ແ ຕ ່ ວ ່ າ ບ ໍ ່ ທ ັ ນ ໄ ດ ້ ໄ ປ ລ ົ ງ ທ ະ ບ ຽ ນ ປ ່ ອ ນ ບ ັ ດ . ຂ ໍ ໂ ທ ດ ຫ ລ າ ຍ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຈ ົ ້ າ ວ ່ າ ແ ລ ະ ເ ທ ື ່ ອ ໜ້ າ ຈ ະ ໄ ປ ຈ ົ ດ ຊື່ ລ ົ ງ ທ ະ ບ ຽ ນ .

ສະ ມາ ຄົ ນ ລ າ ວ ເ ສ ຣ ິ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ຕ ັ ້ ງ ເ ຈ ົ າ ປ ະ ທ ານ ຄ ົ ນ ໃ ໝ່

* ທ ່ ານ ຄ ຳ ຈ ັ ນ ທ ລ ວ ງ ພ ິ ໄ ຊ ຍ ໄ ດ ້ ຖ ິ ກ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ຕ ັ ້ ງ ເ ປ ັ ນ ປ ະ ທ ານ ສ ະ ມ າ ຄ ົ ນ ລ ່ າ ວ ເ ສ ຣ ິ ໃ ນ ເ ດ ື ອ ນ 11, 1987 ແ ຕ ່ ລ າ ຍ ຣ ະ ອ ຽ ດ ຂ ອ ງ ການ ເ ລ ືອ ກ ຕ ັ ້ ງ ແ ລ ະ ປ ະ ວ ັ ດ ຂ ອ ງ ທ ່ ານ ນ ັ ້ ນ ຈ ະ ມ ີ ໃ ຫ ້ ການ ໃ ນ ຕ ົ ້ ນ ເ ດ ື ອ ນ 2, 1988. ສ ແ ດ ງ ຄ ວ າ ມ ສ ັ ນ ຣ ະ ເ ສ ີ ນ !

ຂໍ້ແນະນຳ ທີ່ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ໃ ນ ການ ຈ າ ຣ ະ ຈ ອ ນ

ເ ນ ື່ ອ ງ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຫ ົ ນ ທ າ ງ ດ ີ ທ າ ງ ນ ຶ ່ ງ ທ ີ ່ ຈ ະ ສ ອ ນ ລ ູ ກ ຂ ອ ງ ທ່ ານ ໃ ຫ ້ ຮ ູ ້ ຈ ັ ກ ຄ ວ າ ມ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ໃ ນ ການ ຂ້ າ ມ ຖ ນ ົ ນ ນ ັ ້ ນ ແ ມ ່ ນ ເ ຈ້ າ ທ່ ານ ເ ອ ງ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຕ ົ ວ ຢ່ າ ງ . ໃ ຫ ້ ຂ້ າ ມ ຕ ອ ນ ມ ີ ໄ ฟ ຂ ຽ ວ ເ ທ ົ່ າ ນ ັ ້ ນ ແ ລ ະ ໃ ຫ ້ ຫ ລ ຽ ວ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ຣ ົ ດ ທ ັ ງ ສ ອ ງ ຝ່ າ ກ ທ າ ງ ເ ສ ັ ຍ ທ ອ ນ . ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ອ ງ ວ າ ງ ວ າ ງ ແ ຂ ນ ລ ູ ກ ຂ ອ ງ ທ່ ານ ຕ ອ ນ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ ໂ ດ ຍ ທີ່ ບ ໍ ່ ມ ີ ຄ ວ າ ມ ຕ້ ອ ງ ໃ ຈ .

ເ ພ າ ະ ວ ່ າ ບ າ ງ ໆ ເ ທ ື ່ ອ ເ ດ ັ ກ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ຣ ົ ດ ມ າ ແ ລ ະ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຄ ິ ງ ຄ ິ ດ ວ າ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ຣ ົ ດ ຄ ິ ງ ສ າ ມ າ ດ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ໄ ດ ້ ຄ ື ກ ັ ນ . ຈ ຶ ່ ງ ຈ ະ ອ ະ ທ ິ ບ າ ຍ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຮ ູ ້ ວ ່ າ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ຣ ົ ດ ບ ໍ ່ ຈ າ ດ ສ າ ມ າ ດ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ໄ ດ ້ ຍ ້ ອ ນ ວ ່ າ ລ ວ ງ ສ າ ຍ ຕ າ ຂ ອ ງ ເ ດ ັ ກ ບ ໍ ່ ມ ີ ພ ອ ນ ມ ອ ງ ກ ັ ບ ສ າ ຍ ຕ າ ຂ ອ ງ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ . ເ ຖ ິ ງ ແ ມ ່ ນ ວ ່ າ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ຈ ະ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ໄ ດ ້ ກ ໍ ຕ າ ມ , ແ ຕ ່ ເ ດ ັ ກ ບ ໍ ່ ຄ ວ ນ ຄ ິ ດ ວ າ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ນ ັ ້ ນ ຈ ະ ຢ ຸ ດ ໃ ຫ ້ ທ ຸ ກ ເ ວ ລ າ ເ ລ ີ ຍ . ຜ ູ ້ ຂ ັ ບ ຣ ົ ດ ສ ່ ວ ນ ມ າ ກ ເ ປ ັ ນ ຄ ົ ນ ຟ້ າ ວ ຟ້ ່ ງ ຢ ູ ່ ເ ລ ື ອ ຍ ໆ ແ ລ ະ ຄ ິ ດ ໃ ສ ່ ແ ຕ ່ ຈ ຸ ດ ບ ່ ອ ນ ພ ວ ກ ເ ຂ ົ າ ຢ າ ກ ໄ ປ ເ ຖ ິ ງ ເ ທ ົ່ າ ນ ັ ້ ນ ໂ ດ ຍ ທີ່ ຫ ວ ັ ງ ໃ ຫ ້ ຜ ູ ້ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ ຫ ລ ີ ກ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ຂ ົ າ ໄ ປ . ເ ພ າ ະ ສ ະ ນ ັ ້ ນ ທ່ ານ ຄ ວ ນ ຣ ະ ມ ັ ດ ຣ ະ ວ ັ ງ ກ ັ ບ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຂ ອ ງ ທ່ ານ ແ ລ ະ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຮ ຽ ນ ຮ ູ ້ ຄ ວ າ ມ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ໃ ນ ການ ຂ້ າ ມ ຖ ນ ົ ນ ຢ ູ ່ ເ ລ ື ອ ຍ ໆ ແ ລ ະ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ເ ວ ລ າ ຣ ົ ດ ລ ອ ດ ,ແ ລ ່ ນ ໄ ວ ຫ ລ ື ແ ລ ່ ນ ຜ່ າ ນ ໄ ປ ແ ດ ງ .

ຄ ຳ ແ ນ ະ ນ ຳ ຢ່ າ ງ ປ ອ ດ ພ ັ ຍ ດ ີ ທ ີ ່ ຄ ວ ນ ສ ອ ນ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຂ ອ ງ ທ່ ານ :

* ໃ ຫ ້ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ ຕ ັ ດ ບ ່ ອ ນ ທ ີ ່ ມ ີ ຂ ີ ດ ແ ລ ະ ບ ່ ອ ນ ທ ີ ່ ມ ີ ໄ ฟ ຂ ຽ ວ ເ ທ ົ່ າ ນ ັ ້ ນ .
* ໃ ຫ ້ ຍ່ າ ງ , ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ແ ລ ່ ນ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ .
* ສ ິ ບ ສ ອ ນ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ວ ່ າ ເ ດ ັ ກ ຂ ອ ງ ທ່ ານ ອ ່ ານ ປ້ າ ຍ "Walk ຍ່ າ ງ" ກ ັ ບ "Don't walk ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ຍ່ າ ງ" ໄ ດ ້ ຫ ລື ບ ໍ ່ ? ສ ອ ນ ເ ຂ ົ າ ເ ຈ ້ າ ບ ໍ ່ ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ຊ ື ່ ອ ໄ ປ ຈ າ ຣ ະ ຈ ອ ນ ໃ ຫ ້ ຫ ລ ຽ ວ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ທ ັ ້ ງ ສ ອ ງ ຝ່ າ ກ ທ າ ງ ທ ຸ ກ ໆ ຄ ັ ້ ງ ເ ພ ື ່ ອ ຄ ວ າ ມ ແ ນ່ ໃ ຈ ບ ໍ ່ ມ ີ ຣ ົ ດ ມ າ - ຈ ຶ ່ ງ ຂ້ າ ມ .
* ໃ ຫ ້ ເ ບ ິ ່ ງ ຣ ົ ດ ກ ຳ ລ ັ ງ ຈ ະ ລ ້ ອ ນ , ຈ ະ ຖ ອ ຍ ຫ ລ ັ ງ ຫ ລ ື ແ ລ ່ ນ ຜ່ າ ນ ໄ ປ ແ ດ ງ .
* ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ຂ້ າ ມ ຣ ະ ຫ ວ ່ າ ງ ທ າ ງ ຣ ົ ດ ຈ ອ ດ ຫ ລ ື ຣ ະ ຫ ວ ່ າ ງ ທ າ ງ ທ າ ງ .
* ຕ ອ ນ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ້ ອ ງ ປ ັ ດ ຍ ູ ້ ກ ັ ນ ຫ ລ ື ຢ ອ ກ ກ ັ ນ ຫ ລ ິ ້ ນ ໂ ດ ຍ ທີ່ ບ ໍ ່ ຕ ັ ້ ງ ໃ ຈ ຂ້ າ ມ ທ າ ງ .
* ໃ ຫ ້ ມ ີ ຄ ວ າ ມ ຣ ະ ມ ັ ດ ຣ ະ ວ ັ ງ ເ ພ ີ ້ ນ ເ ຕ ີ ນ ເ ມ ື່ ອ ທ່ ານ ບ ໍ ່ ສ າ ມ າ ດ ເ ຫ ັ ນ ແ ຈ້ ງ ດ ີ - - ເ ມ ື່ ອ ມ ີ ນ ້ ຳ ໝ ອ ກ ກ ຸ ້ ນ ຫ ລ ື ຝ ົ ນ ຫ ົ ກ ຫ ລ ື ຕ ອ ນ ຄ ່ ຳ .

Phim Chiến Tranh Truyền Hình Làm Buồn Lòng Người Việt Và Cựu Chiến Binh Mỹ

Karen Koenig va Quyen Quoc Tiet

Bắt đầu vào tháng 9 năm 1987, 20 năm sau những trận quan trọng ở cuộc chiến Việt Nam, đài CBS-TV bắt đầu chiếu một loạt phim giải trí giả tưởng gọi là "Tour of Duty" ("Chuyến Đi Nghĩa Vụ") nói về một tiểu đội lính Mỹ tại Việt Nam vào năm 1967.

Một thế hệ người Mỹ được trưởng thành trong năm đó. Họ có nên coi và tin rằng sự miêu tả đó là đúng với sự thật những gì xảy ra ở Việt Nam hay không?

Những cuộc phỏng vấn những người tỵ nạn Việt Nam và những cựu chiến binh Mỹ về ý kiến của họ đối với "Tour of Duty," The Tenderloin Times tìm thấy những cách nhìn khác nhau về cuộc chiến của hai nhóm trên.

Khi những cựu chiến binh Mỹ đều chỉ trích vai trò của Mỹ ở Việt Nam, và bày tỏ sự [illegible]ối, hoảng sợ và hối hận của bản thân họ trong sự mâu thuẫn đó, người tỵ nạn Việt Nam--tất cả đều là thường dân lúc chiến tranh--đều cho thấy tinh thần phản cộng và lo ngại loạt phim này được chiếu ở Mỹ và nói lên vai trò của Mỹ quá tiêu cực trong cuộc chiến.

Tuy có những cách nhìn khác nhau về cuộc chiến, cựu chiến binh Mỹ và người Việt tỵ nạn đa số cũng đồng ý rằng những chi tiết trong loạt phim không chính xác như về khía cạnh văn hóa và chính trị Việt Nam, quan hệ giữa lính Mỹ và phụ nữ Việt Nam, và đặc tính của các trận đánh.

Những cựu chiến binh đều cho biết những cảnh chiến tranh đều rất giả tạo và nhẹ nhàng hơn so với những kinh nghiệm của họ lúc ở Việt Nam. Họ cũng để ý đến loạt phim làm giảm bớt đặc tính gây nên nhiều sự tranh luận của cuộc chiến, và trong vài trường hợp, làm vẻ vang những cuộc chiến.

Ông Nguyễn, một sinh viên ở Đà Nẵng trong lúc đó, nói rằng phim đó chỉ tập trung vào kinh nghiệm của Mỹ trong cuộc chiến. "Chính trị và văn hóa Việt Nam chỉ là bối cảnh," ông nói như vậy.

Vài cựu chiến binh, như Paul Cox, hải quân ở Việt Nam vào năm 1970, nói không có một phim nào nói lên được kinh nghiệm của họ. Chỉ có phim tài liệu mới có thể cho người xem biết một ít về hình ảnh thật mà thôi.

Cựu hải quân Melvin Escueta, đi một chuyến nhiệm vụ ở Việt Nam vào năm 1966 và 1967, phê bình phim không có đề cập đến chứng tâm lý sau những tổn thương, chứng bịnh gây bởi những sự kinh hoảng, đau khổ và vấn đề tình cảm trong lúc chiến tranh mà ảnh hưởng về sau.

Photo: CBS

Một người lính Mỹ đang bảo hộ một người tù Việt Nam trong "Tour of Duty."
An American G.I. escorts a Vietnamese prisoner in "Tour of Duty."

Những người Việt được phỏng vấn nói nếu họ là người được sản xuất những loạt phim "Tour of Duty" này, thì người Mỹ sẽ được hiểu biết thêm rất nhiều về lịch sử và văn hóa của Việt Nam. Và những cảnh chiến đấu sẽ ác liệt hơn nhiều.

"Họ bắn đại liên, quăng lựu đạn, họ la, hét, dữ dội lắm," ông Trang nói như vậy, một học sinh ở Sài Gòn vào năm 1966. Ông Tâm, một người lớn tuổi trước đây là nhân viên tùy viên tài chánh của tòa Đại Sứ Pháp, nói ông muốn những loạt phim đó nói lên "ý chí chống cộng của người Việt Nam."

Những cựu chiến binh và người Việt đều để ý trong "Tour of Duty" có một chi tiết không chính xác là không thấy sự hiện diện của quân lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa trong đa số các cảnh trong phim.

Người Việt va những cựu chiến binh Mỹ co cach nhin khac nhau về thái độ lính Mỹ ở Việt Nam. Trong một trong những đoạn phim, lính Mỹ di tản dân làng và đốt hết những nhà của trong làng.

"Hình ảnh lính Mỹ đốt nhà người Việt là một cảnh gây nhiều sự tranh luận," ông Nguyễn nói như vậy. "Điều đó không xảy ra trừ trường hợp rất cần thiết." Ông Tâm nói thêm, "Đó là một sự tuyên truyền tốt cho Cộng Sản."

Cựu chiến binh Steve Hassna hoàn toàn không đồng ý với hình ảnh của lính Mỹ trong phim vì họ như rất đàng hoàng và có kỷ luật. "Nhiều năm sau, như một cơn ác mộng," ông nói, "tôi ý thức rằng đơn vị không vận 101 của tôi, và đó là điều đáng buồn vì chúng tôi không có người nào thấy được trong lúc đó, hung bạo không khác gì nhiều so với tụi Nazi SS Panzers tung hoành ở Đông Âu lúc Đệ Nhị Thế Chiến."

Trong vấn đề lính Mỹ đối sử với phụ nữ Việt Nam trong phim, cựu chiến binh và người Việt không phải không đồng ý với nhau, mà họ có những sự phản đối khác nhau.

Trong một đoạn phim, một anh lính Mỹ yêu một cô Việt Nam, và choàng tấm bong-sô của anh ta trên mình cô gái ấy trong đêm dừng chân của cuộc di tản. Ngồi tựa mình dưới gốc cây, cô gái ngả vào lòng anh lính Mỹ và hai người ngủ như vậy suốt đêm. Đến sáng lúc thức dậy, với vẻ mặt rất ngây thơ, hai người vẫn còn ngồi với tư thế như vậy.

Những người Việt được phỏng vấn cho biết điều đó không đúng với văn hóa Việt Nam vì phụ nữ ở vùng thôn quê rất bảo thủ và rất sợ người ngoại quốc.

Theo ông cựu chiến binh Melvin Escueta, điều không đúng với sự thật là "một người đàn bà như vậy sẽ bị cưỡng hiếp." "Quân đội Mỹ đi đến đâu cưỡng hiếp đến đó, và cấp trên dung tha điều đó."

Cựu chiến binh và người Việt đều phê bình trong "Tour of Duty" quá nhiều người Việt biết tiếng Anh và họ nói rằng sự khác biệt ngôn ngữ là một vấn đề trong cuộc chiến.

Đối với cựu chiến binh Duff Cole, bộ binh ở Việt Nam vào năm 1967 và 1968, nguy hiểm nhất của "Tour of Duty" là nó tán dương chiến tranh. "Nó không thể hiện sự kinh hoảng của chiến tranh, hay nó làm cho sự kinh hoảng đó thành một điều kích thích. Nhưng chiến tranh không phải là một điều kích thích, mà chỉ là rùng rợn."

Ông nói ông muốn người Mỹ được nhận thấy một ý khác, nhất là những người trẻ tuổi. "Đừng giết người, vì nó sẽ ăn mòn trong bạn," ông nói. "Nếu bạn giết người, có nghĩa là bạn đang giết bản thân mình."

Thượng Viện Thông Qua Bản Dự Luật Người Tỵ Nạn

Ngày 7 tháng 10, Thượng Nghị Viện đã thông qua một bản tu chỉnh của pháp án tái định cư và bảo vệ người tỵ nạn Đông Nam Á, được đề ra bởi Nghị Sĩ Mark O. Hatfield (Đảng Cộng Hòa, tiểu bang Oregon). Bản dự luật thể hiện một "cảm giác của Quốc Hội" cho rằng sự tiếp nhận người tỵ nạn từ Đông Nam Á nên giữ nguyên với mức độ hiện nay trong ba năm tới này, và cho phép tài trợ sự bảo hộ và giáo dục người tỵ nạn tại Thái Lan.

Thêm vào đó, bản dự luật Hatfield cũng biểu hiện "Quốc Hội cảm thấy" rằng những người tỵ nạn ở các đảo trên ba năm được sự quan tâm đặc biệt trên phương diện nhân quyền của Mỹ, và Mỹ nên dẫn đầu để phục hồi những có gắng quốc tế tái định cư những người này. Bản dự luật cấp năm triệu cho năm 88 và 89 cho chương trình giáo dục ở các trại tỵ nạn dọc theo biên giới Lào và Campuchia tại Thái Lan.

Bản dự luật mà được thông qua bởi số phiếu 63 trên 33, hiện được chuyển qua hội nghị đàm phán giữa Thượng Viện và Hạ Viện để được xem xét thêm.

—Refugee Reports 10/16/8

7 Đứa Trẻ, 5 Người Già Bị Xe Đụng Trong 3 Tháng Vừa Qua

Sara Colm va Quyen Quoc Tiet

Những con đường ở Tenderloin có thể cực kỳ nguy hiểm và có khi gây chết người, nhất là trẻ em và người già, theo sự điều tra những bản tường trình cục cảnh sát của tờ Tenderloin Times. Trong ba tháng vừa qua, 32 người bộ hành bị xe đụng trong Tenderloin--trong số đó có bảy đứa trẻ và năm người già.

Đường Eddy có con số cao nhất là chín vụ người đi bộ bị đụng, kế đó là Leavenworth năm và Geary bốn. Ngã tư góc Eddy và Jones là góc đường nhiều vụ tai nạn người bộ hành nhất, trước công viên Boeddeker, gồm có ba vụ.

Một ngày Chủ Nhật đầu tháng 11, một trẻ em ba tuổi tên là Nguyễn Linh Sa chạy ra đường từ một tiệm giặt đồ mà mẹ của Sa đang giặt đồ ở đó, và bị xe đụng. Sa chết trong nhà thương chiều hôm đó.

Một tuần sau đó, cha mẹ đầy thương cảm của bé Sa nói với bồn báo, "Sa mất chúng tôi buồn lắm," cha của Sa ông Nguyễn Quốc Doanh nói như vậy. "Nó đã lớn và biết nói rồi," mẹ Linh Sa nói tiếp, "lúc nào nó cũng cầm quyển sách hết. Hỏi nó lớn muốn làm gì, nó nói là muốn làm bác sĩ."

Ông Nguyễn Quốc Doanh yêu cầu người lái xe phải có trách nhiệm và quan sát cẩn thận lúc chạy trong Tenderloin.

Photo: Lance Woodruff

Nguyễn Quốc Doanh, cha của đứa trẻ ba tuổi chết trong một tai nạn xe cộ vào ngày 1 tháng 11.
Nguyen Quoc Doanh, the father of the three-year-old child killed by a car on Nov. 1, implored drivers to watch more carefully in the Tenderloin.

Hơn nữa, dân cư Tenderloin đã than phiền từ lâu những chiếc xe từ các khu khác dùng những con đường một chiều ở Tenderloin để đi đến trung tâm thành phố nhanh hơn. Điều này làm cho tăng thêm sự nguy hiểm đối với trẻ em và những người già không đi nhanh được và những người tàn tật trong vùng.

Những người lãnh đạo trong khu vực kêu gọi một buổi họp cộng đồng lúc một giờ chiều ngày 11 tháng 12 tại số 333 đường Turk để tìm cách làm cho những con đường ở Tenderloin được an toàn hơn cho người bộ hành. Những cách thức mà sẽ được bàn luận gồm có:

*Dựng bản đề cho người lái xe cảnh giác đối với trẻ em và người già.
*Điều chỉnh lại thời gian của đèn giao thông nhằm làm giao thông chậm lại.
*Tăng thêm người hướng dẫn trẻ em qua đường.
*Giáo dục trẻ em, các gia đình có trẻ em và người lái xe về an toàn giao thông.

Buổi họp sẽ được tài trợ bởi Liên Hội Bắc Market, Trung Tâm Tài Nguyên Phụ Nữ Vũng Vinh, và Trung Tâm Trưởng Lão Bắc Market.

Những Cách Giữ An Toàn Giao Thông

Dạy con em của bạn qua đường an toàn bằng hành động của bạn. Chỉ qua đường lúc đèn xanh và coi chừng xe ở hai hướng. Và luôn luôn nắm tay con em các bạn lúc qua đường.

Có khi trẻ em nghĩ rằng nếu mình thấy xe, thì người tài xế cũng thấy mình. Giải thích cho trẻ em hiểu vì họ quá nhỏ nên có khi không phải trong tầm quan sát của người lái xe. Thậm chí lúc người lái xe có thấy mình đi nữa, trẻ em cũng không nên nghĩ rằng người lái xe sẽ dừng vì người lái xe có thể nghĩ rằng người qua đường cũng sẽ tránh cho họ chạy. Vì vậy các bạn nên dặn dò con em mình cẩn thận dù đi trên mức qua đường cũng phải để ý xe quẹo, quá tốc hay vượt đèn đỏ.

Vài cách dạy con em giữ an toàn:
-Chỉ qua đường ở góc đường khi đèn xanh và hiện chữ "walk."
-Đi, đừng chạy qua đường.
-Thử coi con em mình biết chữ "walk" và "Don't Walk" là nghĩa gì không. Dạy chúng đừng chỉ tin tưởng đèn xanh mà còn phải coi chừng xe ở hai bên.
-Coi chừng xe quẹo, xe lui, hay vượt đèn đỏ.
-Đừng qua đường giữa những chiếc xe đậu và đừng qua ở khúc giữa của con đường.
-Đừng đùa giỡn lúc qua đường hay xô đẩy những đứa trẻ khác hoặc không chú ý.
-Phải cẩng cẩn thận hơn khi không thấy rõ--lúc mưa, có sương hay ban đêm.

Đàm Phán Việt Mỹ Có Thể Cho Nhiều Người Tỵ Nạn Rời Nước Hơn Trước

Sara Colm

Sau một thời gian gần hai năm, chương trình cho người Việt Nam chính thức rời nước được trở lại, ông Bruce Beardsley tường thuật như vậy tại một phiên họp cộng đồng ở Trung Tâm Tái Định Cư Người Tỵ Nạn Đông Nam Á trong tháng vừa qua, ông là giám đốc phụ trách vấn đề người tỵ nạn cho Đại Sứ Mỹ tại Bangkok.

Với số người vượt biển rất cao trong năm nay--cao nhất tính từ 1982--hy vọng rằng sự hồi phục chương trình ODP sẽ giảm bớt những chuyến vượt biển nguy hiểm này. Ông Beardsley tường thuật rằng cuộc hội đàm gần đây với chính phủ Việt Nam đã mang lại một thể chế xuất cảnh nhanh hơn và cho nhiều người hơn.

"Chương trình này được hồi phục với một nền móng tốt," ông Beardsley nói như vậy. "Bây giờ chúng tôi có cơ hội để tái định cư số người tỵ nạn đông đảo trong năm tới này."

Chương trình ODP được lập ra giữa Mỹ và Việt Nam vào năm 1979 để cho người vượt biển có một con đường lựa chọn khác. Tính đến hiện nay, 133.000 người đã rời Việt Nam qua chương trình này và phân nửa số người đó đã đến Mỹ. Nhưng vào tháng giêng năm 1986, chương trình đó bị đình lại vì số đơn xin xuất cảnh quá nhiều và sự bất đồng giữa Việt Nam và Mỹ về thủ tục xét duyệt. Ông Beardsley nói rằng ông hy vọng nhiều người hơn sẽ được xuất cảnh qua chương trình mới điều chỉnh này.

Trong đợt phỏng vấn đầu ở Việt Nam vào tháng 9 vừa qua, 1.068 người được phỏng vấn, ngoài 109 người ra, tất cả đều được chấp thuận tái định cư đến Mỹ. Đợt phỏng vấn lần thứ hai được hoàn tất trong tháng vừa qua, 1.346 người được phỏng vấn.

Tuy chương trình được bắt đầu trở lại, nhưng số người trên nửa triệu vẫn còn đang chờ xuất cảnh. Ông Bearsley nói rằng với nhịp độ hiện nay, cần trên 40 năm thì số người đó mới đi hết được. Ông hy vọng Việt Nam đồng ý cho tối thiểu 30.000 người được đi trong một năm--gần gấp đôi số người được đi trong kỳ lục hàng năm.

Mỹ và Việt Nam vẫn chưa thống nhất những người nào thuộc diện ưu tiên. Theo thống kê tính đến hiện nay, chính phủ Việt Nam ưu tiên cho những người gốc Hoa và những thành phần mà Việt Nam không muốn cho ở lại nước. Nhưng phía chính phủ Mỹ thì muốn tái định cư những người trong tù cải tạo và những người trước có liên hệ với Mỹ, kể cả những người lai Mỹ và trực thuộc của họ.

Tuy những người sang Mỹ với diện đoàn tụ gia đình cũng được tái định cư qua chương trình ODP, nhưng ông Beardsley nói rằng trong tương lai những trường hợp đó sẽ được khuyến khích đăng ký theo thủ tục di dân thông thường.

Ông Beardsley nói: "Tôi rất lạc quan về việc gia tăng sự hưởng ứng của Việt Nam trong tương lai. Nhưng chúng ta cũng phải ý thức rằng những diện ưu tiên của Việt Nam sẽ khác với chúng ta."

Việt Nam Phóng Thích Tù Nhân Trong Trại Cải Tạo

Việt Nam đã thả 480 người có liên quan với Chính Phủ Miền Nam Việt Nam từ các trại cải tạo, nhưng những người đó không có tiêu chuẩn pháp lý để tái định cư.

Theo phái viên Việt Nam ở Liên Hiệp Quốc, trong số đó gồm hai công chức của chính quyền trước, chín tướng, 248 sĩ quan, và 117 hạ sĩ quan. Phái viên đó nói nguyên do thả là nhân dịp ngày Quốc Khánh ngày 2 tháng 9 của họ.

Ông David F. Lamberston, bí thư trợ lý đại diện Bộ Ngoại Giao về các vấn đề Đông Nam Á và Thái Bình Dương nói rằng Mỹ hoan nghênh bước tiến này của Việt Nam.

"Về phương diện số người và chức vụ của những người được thả này--và cho phép báo chí được đăng--lần phóng thích này khác với những lần trước rất nhiều," ông nói như vậy.

—Refugee Reports 10/16/8